

# Journey Through the New Testament

## Romans 3 – 7

### *Series: Deep Thoughts with Paul*

### *“Justifying Grace”*

6-23-19

#### ***Introduction***

In the opening chapters of Romans, Paul summarizes salvation as a free gift of God through faith in Jesus Christ. In this week’s reading, he elaborated on this theme using Abraham as an example of justification (being made right) by faith. Those who believe in Christ are justified by faith and have the opportunity to live by the Spirit rather than sin. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus we become God’s children, and through the Spirit, we are alive in Christ. These are deep thoughts, full of mystery and grace.

#### ***Opening Discussion***

1. In reading Romans, what obstacles did you encounter in the elaborate theological explanations of salvation and life in the Spirit?

***Prayer*** O God, we give you thanks for your Spirit made available to us. Enable us to live in the freedom of your grace made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Lesson Notes: Quotable Quotes:*** (a.) *Jesus explains the Old Testament, and the Old Testament explains Jesus.* Keep this in mind as you read about Abraham. (b.) *When you read **therefore**, in scripture, be sure to see what it’s **there for!*** Many biblical translations use “therefore” but the Common English Bible (CEB) uses “that’s why” “since” “so then” “just as.” Notice these to focus on Paul’s explanations. Also, before the discussion, have various group members look up the scriptures that aren’t printed in the lesson so they will be ready to read them.

#### ***What?***

***Therefore, (That’s why) the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all of Abraham’s offspring... (all people)*** Romans 4:16.

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3, 13:16-17. What promise or covenant did God make with Abraham?
2. Read Romans 4:23-25 and Genesis 15:6. What was the result of Abraham’s faith?
3. What children did Abraham and Sarah have when God gave them this promise?

*Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with our God through Jesus Christ. Rom. 5:1*

1. What is the result of faith in Jesus?
2. What is the connection between faith in Jesus and peace? Or said another, What do we no longer need to worry about? (Rom. 5:8-10)

*Just as through one human being sin came into the world, and death came through sin, so death has come to everyone, since everyone has sinned. Rom. 5:12 Many people were made righteous through the obedience of one person, just as many people were made sinners through the disobedience of one person. Rom. 5:19*

1. What did Adam do that brought sin and death to humanity? Genesis 2:17, Rom. 3:23
2. What did Jesus do that brings righteousness and new life (spiritual life) to fallen humanity? (Rom 5:6-8)

*So then, don't let sin rule your body, so that you do what it wants...Instead, present yourselves to God as people who have been brought back to life from the dead, and offer all the parts of your body to God to be used as weapons to do right. Rom 6:12-13*

1. What kind of life are we to live after receiving new life in Christ? Refer also to Rom 6:1-4. (More on this next week—Sanctifying grace)

### ***So What?***

1. So, as believers, what hinders us from experiencing peace, hope, freedom and grace in our lives?
2. So how would you summarize the message of salvation for a non-believer—what basics would you be sure to include?

### ***Now What?***

1. Now that you have studied deep thoughts about justifying grace, what is clearer to you? What is amazing about grace? What will help you live by the Spirit?

*Closing All have sinned and fall short of God's glory, but all are treated as righteous freely by his grace because of a ransom that was paid by Christ Jesus.*

Romans 3:23-24