

Easy As 1-2-3



Romans 5¹

It's As Easy As 1-2-3

Select where you would like to begin and enjoy!

[1-Overall Understanding \(below\)](#)

[2- Detailed Study Notes](#)

[3-Listen and Learn](#)

Overall Understanding

Chapter Five²

Have you ever watched a home or garden show in which they show the BEFORE and NOW pictures at the end? Before the show began, you might have thought, “Well, it isn’t that bad,” but then at the end, your jaw drops when you see the reveal, and you usually have to admit, the “now” is much better.

Romans Chapter 5 is most easily understood as a before-and-now study. Paul skillfully lays out how things were **before** the New Covenant and how they are **now**. He proves that the New Covenant is a “better covenant based on better promises.”

I highly recommend the detailed study notes for this chapter above because they present the chapter in a **before-and-now** chart. These notes are a summary of those. Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8 are some of the most delightful studies you may ever do. Please enjoy!

¹ © C. D. Hildebrand

² Scripture taken from KJV, Public Domain, by the time I realized this was in KJV, it would have been too difficult to change it, so I kept it.

¹Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

BEFORE Jesus died and rose again, we did not have peace with God. NOW we do.

Paul makes it obvious that he is not changing topics. He uses “therefore” which connects it to everything he just said and painstakingly taught: **Christians are justified/made righteous by faith in Christ.**

Righteousness brings peace with God. It means that whatever separated us before, now does not. He is not angry with us. He is for us, not against us.

²through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and **rejoice** in hope of the glory of God.

Access doesn't mean something available to us as if we need to go get it. It means admission. By faith we have admission into this grace.

It is by this grace that we stand (are established) in Him.

³**And not only that**, but we also **glory** in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Get ready! Paul is about to expand on what we have been given.

Sometimes, as we study Scripture, we marvel at the translator's use of words. The word “rejoice” in verse 2 is the same as “glory” in verse 3. For me, reading it that way makes so much sense. We not only rejoice in the grace and peace we've been given, we also rejoice in tribulations.

Why do believers rejoice in tribulations?

Notice Paul connects the two. BEFORE the New Covenant, tribulations brought despair and bitterness. They wore us down and did not build our character.

BUT NOW, as believers, tribulations/troubles do the complete opposite. They produce perseverance, character, and hope. Instead of becoming bitter, we become better. Instead of despair, we have hope. Instead of wanting to give up, we can persevere. Glory to God. WE can rejoice in them.

Too often, these verses are used to crush us. He is not saying we should long for tribulations nor that God uses them to build character. Listen, tribulations come to all people, both believers and those without faith.

The message here is that WE have a covenant with God. We rejoice in all that God has done for us, but we can even rejoice when trouble comes. Even troubles work together for our good.

God doesn't send troubles to build us. He sent His Son to build us. He gave His HOLY SPIRIT and HIS GRACE to teach us. But under this covenant, not even troubles can take us out. Amazingly, for us, we are bettered.

It is also important to remember that when Paul speaks of tribulations, he probably has in mind the persecutions and hardships he faced as a minister of the gospel. Scripture teaches that "all who will live godly in Christ will suffer persecutions." God doesn't send the persecutions, but they will come because they reject Jesus.

⁶For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Before Christ, we were without strength; we were unrighteous; we were sinners; we were enemies.

Even then, Christ died for us. This demonstrates/commends God's love for us. Notice this proof is in the present tense.

⁹**Much more then**, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

BEFORE we were without strength, unrighteous, and sinners. NOW we are righteous, saved from wrath, reconciled, and saved by His life. Take a look at that BEFORE AND NOW picture.

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Another way of putting this is that Abraham's works were good. He could boast in them, but not before God. What God responded to was Abraham's faith.

¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— ¹³(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

BEFORE we were dead sinners, under the law...

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. ¹⁷For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

BEFORE we were dead sinners, condemned, death reigned, but.. NOW we have justification/righteousness; we have the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness; we reign in life through Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

BEFORE we were judged sinners.

NOW we are justified/righteous; NOT SINNERS.

²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BEFORE sin reigned in death.

NOW grace reigns through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are no longer sinners. We are righteous.

Coming Up in Chapter 6

Chapter 6 is magnificent. Paul addresses the question: Shall we sin that grace may abound?

Paul never said such a thing, but he answers it anyway.

He makes the amazing claim that believers are set free from the power of sin.