The book of Romans is rich ground from which many treasures can be unearthed by diligent seekers. Treasure hunting in the Bible always brings much more that we expect. This chapter is Paul's "much more" chapter for believers and treasure seekers. Romans chapter 5 gives us truths based on all that came before, Paul's teaching on condemnation and salvation.

1 <u>Therefore</u> being <u>justified by faith</u>, we have <u>peace with God</u> through our Lord Jesus Christ:

After and because of our justification comes our peace with God. All of us must realize the resulting works of Adam's sin (Genesis 3:17-19), Jesus' redemption (Romans 3:24), our acceptance of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9), and the peace with God. Peace with God is the end of conflict, the war is over.

The peace which we receive is not temporary peace as the world gives (John 14:27). Our peace with God is total and eternal, in spirit, soul, and body, and aligned with God for fellowship with Him.

2 By whom also we have <u>access by faith</u> into this <u>grace wherein we stand</u>, and <u>rejoice</u> in <u>hope of the glory</u> of God.

Faith is our admission ticket into the full grace of God. Jesus clearly taught us the He was the way into fellowship with the Father (John 10:9, 14:6). We accept His invitation and come boldly into God's presence (Hebrews 4:16). In His presence we can stand (abide, live, walk) by grace and in authority with confidence (Ephesians 6:14) to defend all which Christ won and gave to us. We are evermore rejoicing (Philippians 4:4) and living in the glorious hope for our future.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Tribulations will not succeed in our defeat or failure (2Corinthians 4:17). We will glory or value them as we prove the strength and position in which we live. We overcome by faith (1John 5:4) as we use patience to endue and faint not (Galatians 6:9) By faith and patience we inherit all (Hebrews 6:12).

4 And patience, <u>experience</u>; and experience, <u>hope</u>:

When we see God fulfilling His promises (1Samuel 17:34) that continues to build our assurance and confidence in His love for us. These experiences bring the power of hope (Hebrews 10:35-36) into our lives.

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the <u>love of God</u> is <u>shed abroad in our hearts</u> by the <u>Holy Ghost</u> which is given unto us.

God's love is given as grace and mercy (Hebrews 4:16). It is poured out or shed in abundance directly into our hearts (spirits and souls) by our Holy Spirit teacher and reminder (John 14:26).

6 For when we were yet <u>without strength</u>, in due time <u>Christ died for the ungodly</u>.

We are weak and unable to save ourselves. Christ came and died for us when we all were ungodly (Romans 3:23). God's total goodness cannot have fellowship with the sin and death in the unsaved man. He made the first move toward us to establish the possibility for fellowship with us.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man <u>will one die</u>: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.

Only few of us would risk or give our life for another, maybe, for a good person, an innocent child or a loved one. He knew the unrighteous state of man (Romans 3:10).

8 But God <u>commendeth his love</u> toward us, in that, while we were yet <u>sinners</u>, <u>Christ died</u> for us.

God, the Father, extended His love, His grace, in the highest form (the death of His beloved Son) when we were in lowest state (1Peter 3:18). The great exchange: Christ's death for our life, His righteousness for our sinfulness, and His wealth (in all dimensions) for our total poverty (in all areas).

9 <u>Much more</u> then, being now <u>justified by his blood</u>, we shall be saved <u>from wrath</u> through him.

Much more is the comparison of our justification and His wrath. Much more is the abundant life in Jesus (John 10:10), the very purpose of His coming to the earth. We are eternally justified, made righteous, by His blood not temporarily by blood of goats and calves (Hebrews 9:12). We were destined for wrath which we deserved, as a just punishment for our sin nature rooted in disobedience. Jesus saved us by receiving the wrath of God for us.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death

of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Much more compares children and enemies. If we as enemies were reconciled (made just, balanced, correct) into God's fellowship by Jesus' death. How much more, are we as children made whole, complete, and victorious by Jesus' life at the right hand of the Father and the Holy Spirit alive within us (Acts 1:8, 2:4).

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the <u>atonement</u>.

We enjoy the joy of the freedom and strength (Nehemiah 8:10) received from Jesus, who is our Savior, our Baptizer, our Healer, and our Coming King. Our sins (past, present, and future) exist no more due to Jesus' complete atonement and payment (Hebrews 10:12) for them.

12 Wherefore, as by one man <u>sin entered</u> into the world, and death by sin; and so <u>death passed upon all</u> men, for that all have sinned:

Adam bombed the earth by bowing to Satan when he disobeyed God's command (Genesis 3:17-19) bringing sin into the world. Adam's sin is inherited by us, through our genes, our flesh, and our human nature. With sin, we all receive its wages which is death (Romans 6:23). According the God's law, we all have sinned and are guilty of breaking the whole law (James 2:10).

13 (For <u>until the law</u> sin was in the world: but sin is <u>not imputed</u> when there is no law.

Even before the law, which told us what was sin (Romans 4:15) and its punishment, sin was in man and in the world. Without the Law, God could not legally charge the sin to man's account. (1 Corinthians 15:56) The law made man aware of his sin, judgment to come and the due punishment.

14 Nevertheless death reigned <u>from Adam to Moses</u>, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the <u>figure of him</u> that was to come.

Before the law was given to us, the natural results of sin (broken bodies, failed relationships, and future worries) reigned over and ruled us as sinful men under a death sentence. Adam was an example or figure of Jesus, in that his actions affected all our lives (Matthew 26:28).

15 But not as the offence, so also is the <u>free gift</u>. For if through the <u>offence of one</u> many be dead, <u>much more</u> the grace of God, and the <u>gift by grace</u>, which is <u>by one man</u>, Jesus Christ, hath <u>abounded</u> unto many.

We received the sin nature without our effort, likewise we receive the free gift of salvation without earning or deserving it. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The gift of grace is much more powerful, desirable, and valuable than the offense of Adam. The grace gift of God abounds to everyone. (Isaiah 53:11) Grace abounds (jumps joyfully) toward us who receive it through faith. (Romans 5:20, Ephesians 2:8-9)

16 And not as it was by <u>one that sinned</u>, so is the gift: for the <u>judgment</u> was by one to condemnation, but the <u>free gift</u> is of many offences unto <u>justification</u>.

By one man's sin and by one man's gift, judgment and justification applies to all of us in the present Grace age. (James 2:10, Galatians 3:10) Jesus' one gift is applied and eliminates all the sins of all us.

17 For if by one man's offence <u>death reigned</u> by one; <u>much more</u> they which receive <u>abundance of grace</u> and of the gift of <u>righteousness shall reign</u> in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

The kingdom of life is much more than the kingdom of death. (1 Corinthians 15:22) The kingdom of life from Jesus brings the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness. (John 10:10). We reign forever as kings with power and authority in Jesus, not in our own.

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

We are in the race of man guilty with all since Adam. But because we are made in the image of God our Savior came to deliver us from the judgment of death to the justification of life.

19 For as by <u>one man's disobedience</u> many were made sinners, so by the <u>obedience of one</u> shall many be made righteous.

We did nothing to be born as a sinful man. We were made sinners by Adam's disobeying God's commandment. By the same process, we are made righteous by the obedience of Jesus to the faith in God's plan of salvation (John 3:16-17).

20 Moreover the <u>law entered</u>, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, <u>grace did much more</u> abound:

The law made us aware of our great sin. A "much more" greater grace abounded above that sin and is extended to all of us. (Ephesians 1:6-8)

21 That as <u>sin</u> hath <u>reigned</u> unto death, even so might <u>grace reign</u> through righteousness unto <u>eternal life</u> by Jesus Christ our Lord.

The mark of the kingdom of sin is death. (Hebrews 4:16) In the kingdom of grace, Jesus delivers righteousness which brings eternal life. The truth is that grace begets righteousness and righteousness begets eternal life. (John 1:16-17)