

# Reigning in Life

Romans 5:17

*"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."*

Romans 5:17 is the only verse in the whole Bible that uses this phrase so we need to unpack the verse to see what is involved and what is provided.

**There are 7 key phrases:**

1. Because of sin death, reigned through that one man
2. How much more
3. Will those who receive
4. God's abundant provision of grace
5. The gift of righteousness
6. Reign in life
7. Through the one man Jesus Christ

We will now look at the seven statements in order that we can live a victorious Christian life as Jesus intended for each of us, in spite of difficulties we may face.

## 1. Because of Sin, Death reigned through that One Man

The day Adam sinned (disobeyed God's specific instruction), death entered the world. Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-24. Ever since that time death has reigned, people are living in sin and dead to God. It is our sin that separates from the life that is in God. God is the source of light and life. Satan is the source of rebellion, sin, darkness and death.

Throughout the book of Romans we see the contrast of death that came through Adam and life that is through Christ.

Romans 5:12-14

*"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come."*

Romans 8:1-2

*"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."*

Romans 8:6-8

*"The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God."*

## 2. How Much More

In scripture a number of times we find this phrase and it is relating to God doing things on a higher (spiritual) and greater (provision) level than what man is able to do.

Matthew 12:12, Luke 12:24 Jesus quotes this in comparing people to animals.

Matthew 7:11, Luke 11:13 God giving gifts and the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Luke 12:28 God will feed and clothe us.

Romans 5:9-10      Saved through Christ's death, reconciled through his life  
Romans 5:15      The Grace of God and the gift through Christ overflow to many  
Hebrews 9:14      The blood of Christ cleanses our consciences from acts that lead [to death]  
Hebrews 12:9      Submit to God and live.

Romans 5:9-10

*"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"*

### 3. Will those who Receive

This is a major key for everything that is available through Christ, we have to learn to receive by faith (Hebrews 11:6) The central truth about Faith is that IT IS NOT A FORMULA but comes out of a personal relationship with:

#### **Christ**

Hebrews 12:2

*"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

#### **The Father**

Romans 12:1-3

*"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."*

As we meet the conditions and respond to God's voice, so our faith grows (Romans 10:17).

The Holy Spirit strengthens our faith. 2 Corinthians 4:13

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

*"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."*

### 4. God's Abundant Provision of Grace

Romans 5:21

*"so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

What a tremendous statement. It is almost impossible to grasp the greatness of what Paul is stating here. Most of us do not really understand God's grace, as a word it carries the meaning of undeserved gift that is somehow connected to the character of the giver. God has no obligation to bestow such love and generosity on us but he chose to do it along with his mercy and love. Hebrews 4: 14-16.

Probably the simplest definition I have heard for grace is based around the word

**God's Riches At Christ's Expense.** In other words all of heaven's resources are available to anyone who submits to the lordship of Jesus Christ

There are more than 125 references to grace in the Bible, most of them being in the New Testament we will look at some of the key ones.

God is the source of Grace. Hebrews 4:16, Romans 5:15-21

Jesus is the true expression of grace. John 1:14-17

Salvation is only available through grace (we do not deserve and cannot earn it) the key is faith, not good works. Ephesians 2:1-10, Romans 3:21-26 Hebrews 2:9

- ❖ Salvation includes **Redemption** from the hand of the devil. **Justification** the price of my sin has been paid, no longer in debt to God. **Reconciliation** no longer separated from God but adopted into His family. **Righteousness** this we will look at in greater detail in the next section.

Grace releases us from the law as it is by faith. Romans 4:13-17

Grace is superior to the law and good works. Romans 11:6 Galatians 2:20

Grace is greater than sin. Romans 6:1

Grace works FOR YOU (salvation), IN YOU (sanctification)  
THROUGH YOU (service) 1 Corinthians 15:10

Christ breaks the curse of poverty through Grace. 2 Corinthians 8:9

We are to grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ. 2 Peter 3:18

By faith we learn to stand in God's grace. Romans 5:2

Every believer needs to respond to God's grace. 2 Corinthians 6:1, Galatians 2:21

1 Corinthians 15:10, producing fruit for the gospel. Colossians 1:3-8

Grace strengthens us to endure. Hebrews 13:9-14

Grace is the key to overcoming sin and victorious Christian living. Titus 2:11-14.

Giving generously releases God's grace into every area of life. 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11

WARNING: Let us make sure that none of us misses God's grace. Hebrews 12:14-17

## 5. The Gift of Righteousness

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written 'the just shall live by faith'."*

Romans 1:16-17 (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 5:21

*"For he (God) made him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him (Christ)"* (NKJV)

Today many Christians, and even leaders, think that Christ's death was only to pay the price of sin and get us to heaven one day. To believe and act as if this was the only accomplishment is both a tragedy and an insult to Jesus. When Jesus was teaching the disciples he gave them principles to live by so that they would not have to worry about everyday life. *"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all things will be given to you"* (Matthew 6:33)

Jesus majored his teaching on the Kingdom of God, Paul majored his teaching on the righteousness that we receive by faith through Christ

Firstly let us look at 3 verses of scripture that by revelation from the Holy Spirit are life-transforming.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ Jesus he is a new creation; old things have passed away behold all things have become new. Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to himself through Christ Jesus, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation"* (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 5:21

*"For he (God) made him (Christ) who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him (Christ)" (NKJV)*

Romans 5:17

*"For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ"*

According to scripture, there are two kinds of righteousness available to us.

- ◆ The first one is the righteousness that is according to the law. To obtain this you have to keep **all the law all the time**. Failure in the smallest area is like failing in all of the law. Read James 2:8-11.
- ◆ The other righteousness that is available to us is the **gift of righteousness that is through faith in Christ**. He came and lived a perfect life and fulfilled the law and all righteousness (read Matthew 3:13-17 [baptism] and Romans 10:4 [end of the law]) and as a result of his sacrificial death on the cross has made his righteousness available to us.

Meditate on the following statement:

*"When Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and God raised him from the dead he (Jesus) made me (Pete Game) good enough (righteous) for God. All I have to do is to believe it, repent of my sin, receive his righteousness and live in the good of it"*

Please read this statement out loud and replace my name with your name.

This means that now I have a right relationship with, right standing and right of access to God's presence and am free from all sense of sin, guilt and unworthiness, knowing that the Father sees and accepts me in the same way as Christ is acceptable.

When by faith I receive the righteousness of Christ, I also have a

- new identity
- new nature
- new inheritance
- an open heaven
- I must develop a new mindset

By reading through the book of Romans, you will see God's plan unfold (how He did it) and His purpose (why he did it) concerning righteousness.

Righteousness not only deals with our past and gives us the right to come boldly into God's presence (Hebrews 4:16), but it provides for us the foundation to live in such a way that we are free not only from the penalty of sin but also from the pull and power of sin. In fact it equips us to reign in life. This is the purpose of righteousness.

In order to further understand and experience the gift of righteousness you will benefit from studying the following aspects of righteousness.

- Christ is the key to righteousness
  - Proceeds from the heart of the Father
  - Holy Spirit reveals it to us
  - Essential foundation for our lives
  - Righteousness is received by faith
  - Part of our clothing and protection
  - Free gift
- 1 Corinthians 1:30  
2 Peter 1:1; 1 John 2:29, 3:7-10  
John 16:5-11  
Isaiah 54:14; Hebrews 5:11-14  
Galatians 3:6, 21-25, 5:5-6  
Isaiah 54:17,61:10; Ephesians 6:14  
Romans 5:17; 2 Corinthians 5:21

*"The Lord is far from the wicked **BUT** he hears the prayer of the **RIGHTEOUS**"*  
Proverbs 15:29

## 6. Reign in Life

The best example of this is Jesus. As we read the gospels we see how Jesus lived in the power of the Holy Spirit and ruled over circumstances rather than being restricted by people, circumstance and demonic oppression Acts 10:38. Paul also had a revelation of this through his victories, battles and trials, Philipians 4:12-13 also in Romans 8:28-39.

Many of us can make the mistake and think to reign in life means the absence of problems, but that is not what Jesus taught. John 16:33, Luke 10:17-20, Mark 16:15-20.

As we read the book of Acts we see this being worked out.

Jesus taught us to pray "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven" and we need to add "Right here, right now THROUGH me!! Amen.

Read the Gospels to see how Jesus reigned, then read Acts to see how the disciples reigned in life, releasing the Kingdom of God into cultures that were both ignorant of God and totally opposed as they worshipped other gods.

It is important to read the entire Bible, but in the Epistles the writers give revelation of who we are in Christ and who Christ is in us. There are over one hundred references and as we read, meditate and put them into practice we will be changed. Here are two examples

*"If anyone is in Christ Jesus, **he is** a new creation; the old **has** gone, the new **has** come, all this is from God."* 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

*"Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world."* 1 John 4:4

The key to reigning in life is **Right THINKING-SPEAKING-ACTIONS** Psalm 1:1-6, Joshua 1:7-8

There are many voices around us from our culture, past, politics and religion. I can choose what I allow in my mind to shape my thinking and behaviour, or I can choose to renew my mind with God's word.

In Christ we are transferred from:

❖ Darkness	to	Light
❖ Guilt	to	Forgiveness
❖ Bondage	to	Freedom
❖ Brokenness	to	Wholeness
❖ Weakness	to	Strength
❖ Curse	to	Blessing
❖ Death	to	Life

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you REVELATION of these truths so that they cause a REVOLUTION in your spirit and mind then you will start to REIGN in life.

## 7. Through the one man Jesus Christ

Jesus asked his disciples who people said he was, there was a variety of opinions, and then he asked them who they thought he was. Peter said "You are the Christ, son of the Living God". Jesus said he was blessed as this had been revealed to him by God the Father. Matthew 16:13-20. This statement has divided religious leaders down through the years and even people who call themselves Christians do not all agree with it.

In fact this was the number one reason given by the Jewish leaders for Christ being crucified. Matthew 26:62-68, Mark 14:60-65.

Unless you are personally convinced as to who Jesus is, your faith will not stand.  
Was Jesus, A LIAR? A LUNATIC? OR ----IS HE THE SON OF GOD?

John's gospel is very different in both content and style from the other gospels and has three significant features.

Firstly it only records seven miracles and calls them signs as each of the miracles no one else could do and also pointed to Jesus.

Secondly there are seven statements by individuals all pointing to the fact of his divinity, please read each of the passages in John's gospel

- John the Baptist 1:29-34      Nathanael 1:47-51
- Peter 6:66-69                  Martha 11:21-27
- Thomas 20:24-29              John (the apostle) 20:30-31
- Jesus himself 10:31-39

Finally in the gospel Jesus makes seven statements about himself. As you read them you have to ask, are they true and, if they are, then how will they impact my life?

Please read John 6:35, 48, 51. 8:12. 10:7, 11. 11:25. 14:6. 15:1\*\* **20:30/31**

When you are convinced that Jesus is who He says he is and also what he says about you, as you surrender totally to His rule you WILL REIGN IN LIFE and be able to do what Jesus said we could do.

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| ❖ John 14:12        | Do the works of Jesus   |
| ❖ Acts 1:4-8        | In the power of the Holy Spirit be His witnesses              |
| ❖ Mark 16: 15-20    | As believers share the gospel and heal the sick               |
| ❖ Matthew 25: 31-46 | Care for the poor and needy                                   |
| ❖ John 13:34-35     | Demonstrate the love of God to each other                     |
| ❖ John 15:1-17      | Bringing glory to God through answered prayer (bearing fruit) |
| ❖ 1 John 5:3-5      | Overcome the world through faith in Christ                    |