

Class 3: Romans 5:1–8:39

What to Do with Our Bodies in Light of the Gospel

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Review assignment:

- Read Romans 5:1–8:39
- Read Wright: Chapters 3–4 (48 pages)

Next assignment, due before Class 4 [in two weeks]

**NO CLASS ON APRIL 28th: Chad at Renew / National Disciple Making Forum - Read Romans 9:1–11:36 - Read Wright: Chapters 5–8 (95 pages)

Project assignments

- Example of major section: From Romans 1:1–17 into Romans 1:18–4:25: *Preparation* “Preparation is when one section sets up the coming section with background material to prepare the reader.”
- Example: From Romans 1:18–4:25 to Romans 5:1–8:39: *Causation* “Causation is when the preceding section offers a cause and the next section offers the effect of the previous section.” Key verse: “Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.”

Memory verses from today’s section

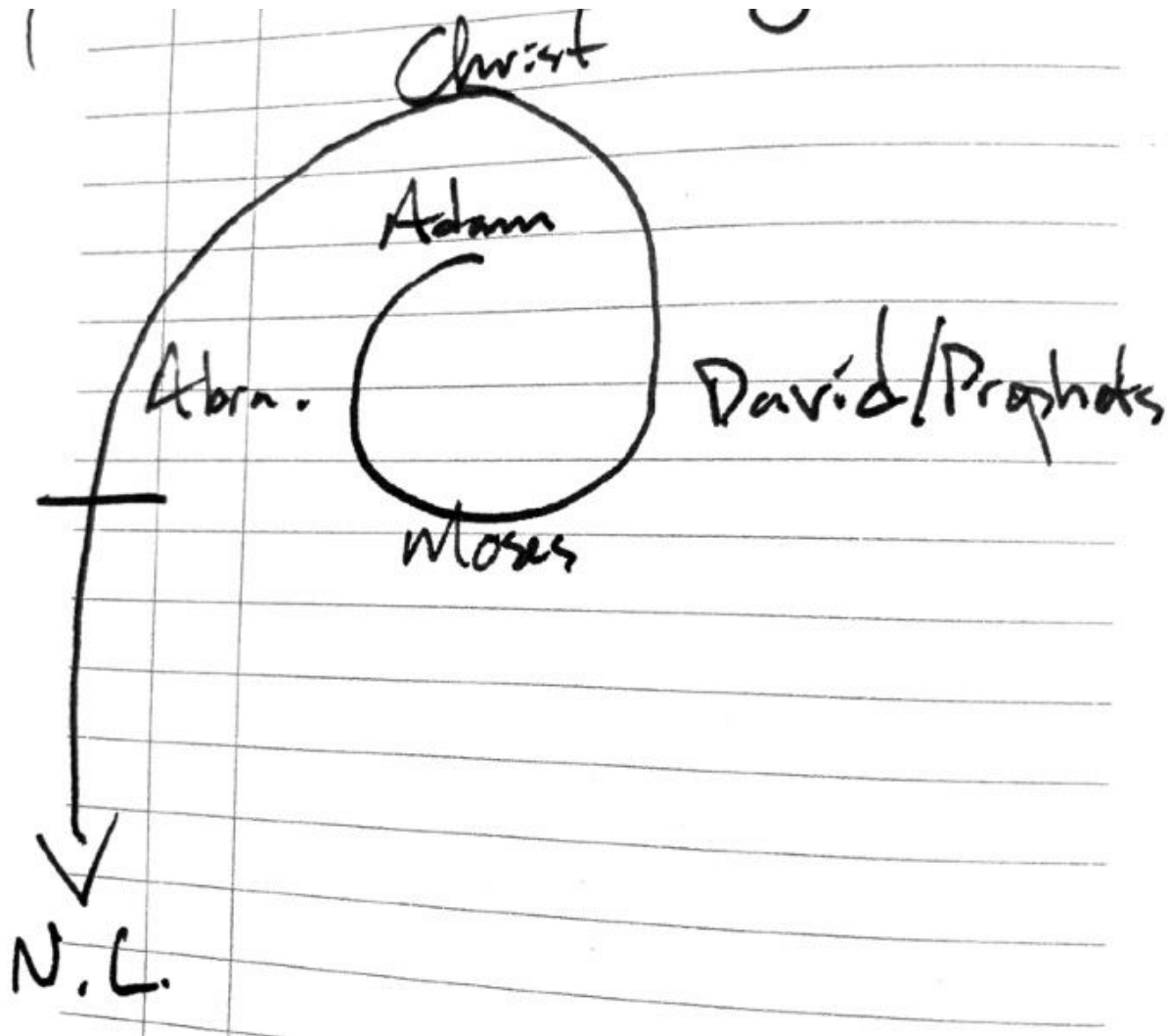
- Romans 7:24–25
- Romans 8:1–2

Outline of Romans 5:1–8:39: “What to do with our bodies in light of the gospel”

- 5:1–6:23 Dead to sin: dying to sin and serving righteousness instead
 - 5:1–11 Introduction: Boasting in hope, afflictions, and reconciliation.
 - 5:12–21 We died in Adam’s transgression, we live through Christ’s gift
 - 6:1–14 We are dead to sin—so do not sin
 - 6:15–19 We are free toward righteousness—so obey

- 6:20-23 Conclusion: sin leads to death, slavery to God leads to life
- 7:1-8:4 Dead to law: moving from death under one law to life under another
 - 7:1-6 Dead to law: marriage serves as an analogy for dying to the law
 - 7:7-13 The purpose of the law: the law exposes our sin, which kills us
 - 7:14-8:4 The limitations of the law: the law does not save, Jesus does
- 8:5-8:39 Freed from death to life: living under the law of the Spirit
 - 8:5-17 From a mind set on flesh to a mind set on the Spirit
 - 8:18-25 From present suffering to the hope of glory
 - 8:26-30 God helps and works for his larger purpose
 - 8:31-39 The love of Christ makes us more than conquerors

Narrative Substructure in Romans



- Romans 1-4:
 - 1 All people under Gentile law: Adam to Abraham

- 2 All Jews under mosaic law: Moses
- 3 All people: David until Christ
- Abraham: summation of Gentile and Jew
- Romans 5–8
 - 5 Adam to Moses (5:14, 20)
 - 6 Egypt: Slaves -> Desert: Freedom
 - 7 Sinai: Receiving the law -> Desert continued: Struggling to fulfill the law
 - 7/8 Jesus Christ/Joshua!
 - 8 Promised Land: Life in the Spirit
- Romans 9–11: Wait to see!

Romans 5:12–6:23 Dead to sin: dying to sin and serving righteousness instead

Read the text and stop at pivots.

5:12–21 We died in Adam’s transgression, we live through Christ’s gift

- 5:9: “Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.”
 - Justification and salvation are differentiated.
- 5:14: “Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.”
 - Type: Typology: Adam is type and Christ is the antitype
 - Cruciality: Mathematics of the kingdom narrative
 - < From one man to all men
 - From all men into one man
 - < From one man unto all men

6:1–23 Dead to sin, freed for righteousness

- 6:4: “4 Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”
 - Baptism as super-analogy—more than analogy—for our identity.
 - Identity is vital for holiness.
- 6:14: “14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.”
 - Notice that we’re no longer dominated by sin; instead we have power over it.
- “Rom 6:20 When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. 22 But now that you have been freed from sin and

enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.“

- Sanctification is a gift of life

Romans 7:1–8:4 Dead to law: moving from death under one law to life under another

7:1–6 Dead to law: marriage serves as an analogy for dying to the law

Read

7:7–13 The purpose of the law: the law exposes our sin, which kills us

- Views of Romans 7
 - This is Paul’s actual experience as a Christian, so this is the Christian now
 - This is not Paul now, but him speaking rhetorically:
 - This is the Christian before they accepted Christ
 - This is the Jew under the law before Christ
- I argue for: This is Paul speaking rhetorically, representing the person under the law before Christ, which we can sometimes go back to.
 - Paul as corporate representative
 - Rhetorical “I” as “we” is less confrontational
 - Narrative substructure
 - The truth that he just laid down: we’re not slaves to sin anymore
- *Romans 7:14–8:4 The limitations of the law: the law does not save, Jesus does
 - First, he exonerates the law
 - Then, he introduces the concept of indwelling sin (the only time in Pauline literature), which Israel has like everyone else
- Conclusion: 17:24–25
 - 17:24–25a: Anticipates Romans 8 with the answer!
 - 17:25: Recapitulates the whole argument and summarizes the plight: “So then, with my mind I [myself] am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.”
 - “Mind” here is not exactly like how it is used in 1:28 and 12:2 (darkened and then renewed)
 - Mind means something in between: stuck under the plight of the person under Torah and without the Spirit

***Romans 8:1–4:**

“1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in

the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

- No condemnation for those “in Christ”:
 - No condemnation from God (vertical)
 - No condemnation from one another (horizontal)
- *My story of encountering this in Joplin at CHCC
- A new law is here—law of Spirit! Not one of the slavery to God under Torah or to the sinful flesh but to the Spirit.
 - v. 4, 9, 11: Who we *are* has changed! We’re not under Torah or flesh anymore, but under Spirit.

Romans 8:5–8:39 Freed from death to life: living under the law of the Spirit

8:5–17 From a mind set on flesh to a mind set on the Spirit

- “Abba, Father”: The spirit of adoption: read this in the plural: “you” “we” and “bearing witness to *our* spirit that *we* are children of God”

8:18–25 From present suffering to the hope of glory

- Creation waits for our revealing! What does this mean?
- This isn’t the old liberal Protestant “social gospel”
- The basis of this goes back to Genesis 3 but carries with it a) the new heavens and new earth of Isaiah 65:17; 66:22 and b) where humans reign with Christ to steward creation.
 - Isa 65:17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
 - Isa 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, says the LORD; so shall your descendants and your name remain.
- Conclusion: We’re to be the wise stewards of creation and the cosmos we were always intended to be!
- So, we’re called to live in the already but not yet time, where new creation has budded but it’s still waiting for our glorification.
 - Beauty
 - Ecology
 - Restorative justice work
 - Wright says in his big commentary on Romans “Christians must be in the forefront of bringing, in the present time, signs and foretastes of God’s fresh beauty to birth within the world, signs of hope for what the Spirit will yet do” (606).

8:26–30 God helps and works for his larger purpose

8:31–39 The love of Christ makes us more than conquerors

- Nothing can separate us from God's love
- “No wall too high” at camp Wildwood in Arkansas, near Searcy: My doubt, leaning against the wall, alone that one day
- My story of struggling with salvation
- God's sovereignty

Q&A