THE BOOK OF ROMANS

6. Fruit of Righteousness

Most religions of the world teach that good works can save man and many think that Christianity is just the same. This is not true! Good works cannot save us! The Apostle Paul has shown us very clearly in the book of Romans that no one is righteous, no one deserves salvation. We can only receive salvation as a gift from God by faith in Jesus Christ. We are now going to complete the first section of the book of Romans by looking at what God does in our lives when we receive his righteousness.

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-8

✪   What do we receive and what happens in our lives when we receive God's righteousness by faith in Christ? Make a list of things from verses 1 to 5. What do these mean?

These are the wonderful things God has done in our lives, but we still live in a world where we face suffering. The word 'suffering' means pressure.

✪   What are some of the pressures you face in your life?

✪   No one likes pressure or suffering and yet Paul tells us to rejoice in these! Romans 5:3-4. Why is it possible for Christians to have this attitude to suffering?

✪   People respond differently to suffering and pressure. Some hold on, while others give up! How can we learn to use difficulties in our lives to produce Christian character?

✪   Why will hope not disappoint us according to Romans 5:5-8?

✪   Share a time when you have been conscious of God's love in a time of suffering or pressure.

✪   Some people think that since God is a God of love he will overlook sin. What does the love of God really mean and how can you share this with an unbeliever? Discuss.

Now that we have received God's forgiveness and been made right with God, we have access into his grace. Just think what that means! Although we still live in a world where there is pressure and suffering, we can rejoice as God will use these things for good in our lives. We now have hope, a hope that will never disappoint us. If you are going through a difficult time right now, 'hold on' to Jesus and keep trusting. He loves you!