

following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

EX: For millennia, death had reigned: the sins of Adam and Eve repeated endlessly by all of mankind. Until, at last, Christ came: and through His sacrificial death and resurrection, the **code was cracked**—and in Him, we received a **free gift and justification**.

1CR 1.26-31 ~ *For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*

CONCLUSION – The Consequence of the Code’s Cracking (RM 5.18-21)

WAR/World War 2/The Enigma Code – Impact of its Cracking

It was the impact of **“The Code Breakers”**—led by **single crucial characters** like Alan Turing—that the **single critical front** was conquered and the **single uncrackable code** was **cracked**. And now, years later, people still study and learn from the example of **“the code breakers”**—who turned an unwinnable battle into won one.

Today, we study the history of great battles like “The Battle of the Atlantic”—and we learn great lessons from them. But similarly, Paul would desire us to learn the most important lesson of all from the most important battle of all: the “battle for our justification”. For through Christ, that **single crucial character**, we are able to see the **single critical front** of the battle won—as He overcame our sin and separation through the **cracking of the code**—through His death, burial, and resurrection.

RM 5.18-21 ~ *Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

INVITATION

#679 [Exp-NTPE]
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The Code Breakers

PC ___ Pchd _____

RM 4.23-5.21

QUESTION: How did we win the war?

TRN TO RM 4

INTRODUCTION

ILL—The Supply Chain (something we are more aware of in recent years with pandemics and tariffs; one large disruption can ripple out leaving every area of the economy affected and even devastated) This, of course, is in our current economy with all its advantages. Now think of how devastating interruptions were back in the 40's and 50's—with WW2 going on!

WAR/World War 2/ Battle of the Atlantic – Impact on Britain

BACKGROUND – The Battle of Justification (RM 4.23-5.2)

RM is one of the most challenging books of the New Testament. Endlessly philosophical, its writings are deep—directly challenging the assumptions of its audience. Paul challenged the assumptions of the Gentiles of their own worldly living; Paul challenged the assumptions of the Jews and their own religiosity. And as we come to chapter 4, he introduces the concept of our *“justification”*. **Were we justified by our works?** No more than Abraham was—who was justified by his faith. *For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, (RM 4.15-16)*

WAR/World War 2/Battle of the Atlantic – Longest Naval Battle

The **“Battle of the Atlantic”** was great and terrible one. But while it might have been the longest naval battle in human history, it was not the longest battle. Far longer was the **“Battle for our Justification”**—which we see recounted as we continue **RM**.

RM 4.23-25 ~ *But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

But what did it mean for them to have been justified—the battle won? Why did they need justification? Too many—Jews, Greeks, Modern Americans—left to their own devices would think themselves safe and right. Countless people to whom Paul would preach didn't realize their danger: they didn't realize their sin. They didn't realize that they were lost and had need of justification. But that didn't change the fact that they needed it!

Little did they realize it, they—and all of us—were at war, and they needed peace more than anything else.

RM 5.1-2 ~ *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

EX: Paul reveals the greatest grace that we could receive: we have been given peace in a war we didn't even know we were fighting—*peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*. He reveals that, in Christ, we have won the war! *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now 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.*

(RM 5.3-5) But how? How did we win the war?

BD1: A Single Crucial Character – Jesus Christ (RM 5.6-9)

WAR/World War 2/The Enigma Code – Alan Turing

In history, we often come across single characters: who come upon the scene and change the world—ensuring victory that would otherwise have been unlikely—or even impossible. In the **“Battle of the Atlantic,”** the case can be made that this was Alan Turing: whose work with the code breakers in World War 2 would change the course of history. As Paul considers the **“battle for our justification,”** he understands that there was only one person who could qualify: Jesus Christ!

RM 5.6-9 ~ *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

EX: There's an old joke in Bible Class: if you don't know the answer to a question, odds are, it's Jesus. And it's correct here, for sure! Jesus is described as that one-irreplaceable character: the one and only way by which we can win the **“battle for our justification.”** Yet, when we consider the battle, we can't help but ask: **why was it so important?**

BD2: A Single Critical Front - Our Sin and Separation (RM 5.10-14)

The **“Battle of the Atlantic”** was a crucial front—the German U-Boats and Luftwaffe placing the British supply chain under constant threat. The allies needed to gain an edge, and unfortunately, the edge was in the hands of the Germans.

WAR/World War 2/The Enigma Code – The Enigma Machine Pt 1 & Pt 2

With the Enigma Machine, the Axis forces could continually shift the cipher—resulting in a seemingly uncrackable code, keeping their secrets hidden in plain site. To win the victory, the Allies had to break the code.

RM 5.10-14 ~ *For 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. ¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. ¹² Therefore, 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. ¹⁴ Nevertheless 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.*

EX: Paul looks back to **GN 3**—the first sin in the garden. And it point out that it was in this moment that the battle truly broke out. And since that sin, every man and woman had fallen to the same foe: their own **sins and separation**. This **single critical front** in the spiritual **“battle for our justification”** was of crucial importance: for without winning this on **this single critical front**, it would be impossible for the **“battle for our justification”** to be won.

RM 3.21-26 ~ *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

BD3: The Single Uncrackable Code, Cracked –A Free Gift and Justification (RM 5.15-17)

WAR/World War 2/The Enigma Code – Cracked

With the discovery of these varied keys: the repeated phrases and words, the **code was cracked**. And as a result, the Allied forces were able to secretly monitor Axis transmissions—by some counts, upwards of 10% of German transmissions were actively intercepted and monitored by the Allied forces—their secrets exposed.

RM 5.15-17 ~ *But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment*