

## Don Carson on Genesis 5

God's time scale is so different from ours. Abram wants a son, and feels his time is running out; God envisages a race with countless millions of descendants. Abram feels his life is approaching its termination with nothing very much settled as to God's purpose in calling him out of Ur of the Chaldeans; God sees the entire course of redemptive history.

What God does in Genesis 15 is promise Abraham that his offspring will constitute a vast number. At one level, God's promise is enough: "Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness" (Gen 15:6). Abram's faith is simple and profound: he believed God's promises, taking God at his word. And that faith, in God's eyes, was credited as righteousness. This does not mean that Abram earned brownie points for deploying such a righteous faith. Rather, the idea is that what God demands of his image-bearers, what he has always demanded, is righteousness — but in this sinful race what he accepts, crediting it as righteousness, is faith, faith that acknowledges our dependence upon God and takes God at his word. This faith of Abram is what makes him the "father" of those who believe (Rom. 4; Gal.3).

Yet however genuine this faith, some of the details of God's promise Abram has trouble imagining. God tells him of a time when his descendants will possess all the land around him, and Abram wavers and asks for a sign (Gen. 15:8). Graciously, God provides one: in a vision, Abram is enabled to see God entering into a covenant with him. Probably the pieces of the animals between which "a smoking firepot with a blazing torch" (Gen. 15:17) passes represent a way of saying, "May those who enter into this covenant similarly be torn apart if they break the terms of this covenant." What a visionary act of kindness to anchor Abram's faith is also an instance of God's long-range plans, his vast frame of reference: he is establishing his covenant with Abram and his offspring, a covenant relation into which Christians enter today (Gal. 3:6-9).

There is one more strand in this chapter that depicts God's long-term view of things. One reason why Abram cannot begin to take over the Promised Land immediately is that "the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure" (Gen 15:16). God's sovereign timing so matches his moral sensibilities that by the time the children of Abraham are ready to take over the Promised Land, the inhabitants of that land will have so sunk in degradation that judgment must be meted out. That time, God says, is coming, but in this chapter it has not yet arrived.

For more posts like this visit: [thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/d-a-carson/](http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/d-a-carson/)

### giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week:	\$3,575.20
Weekly Required (for 2018):	\$5,567.00
Shortfall (for 2018):	\$3,056.00

### electronic fund transfer

<b>A/C Name:</b>	SLE Church
<b>Bank:</b>	National Australia Bank
<b>BSB:</b>	084-424
<b>A/C No:</b>	396558544
<b>Description:</b>	Offering

04 March 2018

## welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

## about

The 'SL' in 'SLE' means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The 'E' stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The 'E' also stands for Evangelical. We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services.

## get connected

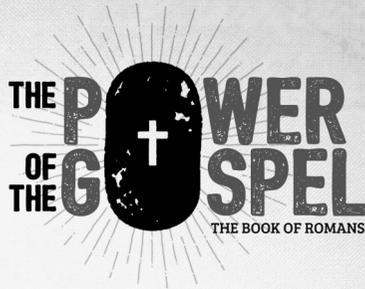
Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: [info@slechurch.org.au](mailto:info@slechurch.org.au) or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: [slechurch.org.au](http://slechurch.org.au)  
or 'like' us for further updates at  
[facebook.com/slechurch](https://facebook.com/slechurch)

## service times

9:00am (North Hall)  
11:40am (South Hall)





## serving grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Mervin	Bryan
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Ben
Bible Read	Chi <i>Ps Steven</i>	Simeon <i>Alice</i>
M.Tea	Eilen Tania	Daniel Muriel
Wash Up	YF Saturday	YF Friday
Welcome	Ken Steph Dan <i>Wei-En</i> <i>Benedict</i> <i>James</i> <i>Jessica</i>	Ken Steph Dan <i>Wei-En</i> <i>Benedict</i> <i>James</i> <i>Jessica</i>
Stewards	Alvin Sunny <i>DT</i> <i>Jordan</i> <i>Josiah</i>	Alvin Sunny <i>DT</i> <i>Jordan</i> <i>Josiah</i>
Piano		
Guitar etc		
Drums		
Vocal		
PA		

## current sermons

- Last Week: The Bad News of the Good News  
[Romans 1:18—3:20]
- This Week: The Righteousness of God Revealed  
[Romans 3:21—4:25]
- Next Week: What's So Good About Justification?  
[Romans 5]

## prayer points

- Praise God for the 'bad news' of the gospel—indeed, praise God for it! For in this bad news we are reminded of how utterly hopeless and dire our situation, which prepares us to see how truly wonderful and awesome the gospel is. Praise God that in our wicked rebellion and hopelessness, God did not forsake us—but sent His one and only Son to die for us, that whoever should trust him will not perish but have everlasting life.
- Praise God that the last word of the good news is not 'sin'. Praise God that 'sin' is followed by 'but God...'
- Praise God that +58 new students attended the international YF welcome lunch last Sunday! Pray that they would be able to connect well with the current YFers and into a supportive church community to grow spiritually while they are here in Brisbane.
- Pray that as we continue to open up the book of Romans that we will be floored by the awesome grace of God. Pray that we would have open ears, minds and hearts to receive the messages. Pray for Pastors Ben and Steven to prepare well and faithfully, as they exhort us to know the gospel better, trust it deeper, and live faithfully in response.

## community news

### 1. Bloom "Titus 2 Time" Event, Sat 17th March, 1:30pm-4pm, North Hall

To kick off our Bloom Women's Ministry this year, we invite all ladies (from uni age and upwards) to join us for a "Titus 2 Time" afternoon tea. It's a great chance to chat and build relationships with women across different age groups in our church. There will be time for sharing and getting to know each other in small groups. Grab an invite, and RSVP at the rego table during morning tea or online at [www.slechchurch.org.au/bloom-rsvp](http://www.slechchurch.org.au/bloom-rsvp)

### 2. Primary and Preschool Sunday School Easter Program

The years 1-6 children will be having 2 weeks of Easter program:

March 11 9am-10:30am

March 18 9am—12noon (includes an Easter egg hunt and picnic at St Lucia Playground Park)

Visitors are welcome. Please talk to Grace Phon or email her at [grace.phon@gmail.com](mailto:grace.phon@gmail.com) to RSVP.

March 18 11am-12noon, Preschool Sunday School children will join with Primary Sunday School children for picnic and Easter egg hunt at St Lucia Playground Park. As such, there won't be morning tea provided for the Preschool Sunday School classes on that day.

### 3. Reminder re Parking Around Church on Sundays

Please be mindful of the following when parking around church on Sundays, so that by our action, we can serve and love our neighbours, both in and out of church:

- By not stopping along the no parking zone on the white striped lines along the front of the church premise
- By using the 2 carpark spaces in front of church as drop off zones on Sunday mornings
- By not parking along the yellow lines
- By not parking so as to obstruct driveways
- By leaving Ryans Road street parking for the elderly and the Armadale Street parking for parents with Sunday School children

## church contacts

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# The Righteousness of God Revealed [Rom 3:21–4:25]

## 1. Introduction: Falling Short

<sup>16</sup> *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.* <sup>17</sup> *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

## 2. Righteousness of God revealed through Jesus

### a. Apart from the law

### b. Redemption

### c. Propitiation

### d. Demonstration

## 3. Righteousness of God Received by Faith

## 4. Further Implications

### a. No boasting

### b. No works

### c. None excluded

## 5. Conclusion