

ROMANS 5:12-21

- Starting here in verse 12, Paul shows the predicament we are facing in life and Paul deals with our reconciliation with God.

*Paul is going to explain our former status of being lost (being of the natural man) before Christ saved and reconciled us.

*These verses give us our condemnation through Adam and our justification through Christ. They show that the work of Christ far outweighs in our blessing, than what the work of Adam did in our misery and loss.

*The rest of this Chapter 5 will take us from our justification in Christ to Chapters 6 through 8 with our sanctification.

1. This verse describes our status that mankind deals with, where one man got us into our dilemma (Adam)

Romans 5:12 - Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

and one man is going to get us out of it (Jesus Christ) - if you choose to.

2. By Adam, sin entered into the world and with that, we all became sinners. The results were that we are all condemned by death. Sin is death.
3. Adam is portrayed as the representative of all mankind and scripture puts the full blame for human sin on the shoulders of Adam. Adam is the father of the human race.
4. Adam was a real historical person, who actually lived on this earth - the first man. Few people will deny the birth of Jesus Christ, but many will deny Adam as being a real person. The theory of evolution strikes hard at this biblical doctrine.

*Banish Adam from this historical fact, then Romans 5 must be torn from the Word of God. With that goes the very heart of Bible teaching on why we have the "sin nature" and its consequences - death.

5. That is what happened in Adam's case. As a result of his sin, human death entered into the world. God made it quite clear that Adam was to be obedient to God at creation in Genesis 2:17.

Genesis 2:17 - But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

*If you read Genesis 3:14, you will read Satan's blatant lie to Eve and Adam. "Ye shalt not surely die." This is man's thinking, man's wisdom over God's wisdom.

6. The moment Adam sinned, he died spiritually and later he died physically. The last part of verse 12 says, "so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned". Death then came upon all of Adam's descendants, because they carry that sin debt from him.
7. Paul gives us another part of scripture describing and comparing the first man (Adam) and the second man (Jesus Christ) in I Cor. 15:45-50.

I Corinthians 15:45-50 - And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit. 1Cor. 15:46 Howbeit that *was* not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 1Cor. 15:47 The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. 1Cor. 15:48 As *is* the earthy, such *are* they also that are earthy: and as *is* the heavenly, such *are* they also that are heavenly. 1Cor. 15:49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 1Cor. 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

8. Adam got us into this mess, but Christ can get us out of it. Death is the result of Adam's sin. We see in Romans 6:23 that "...the wages of sin is death". But, if we receive the gift of God (our Lord Jesus Christ), we then receive the gift of eternal life in the last part of Romans 6:23. God sent His Son as a substitute for all sinners - a free gift through faith.

1. Before the law, there was still sin in the world from Adam to Moses. But, there was no law to condemn

Romans 5:13-14 - (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.
Rom. 5:14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

sinners yet.

Romans 4:15 - Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.

2. It is remarkable that although sin was in the world for centuries, it was not formally charged to men's accounts until Moses came on the scene. It was not until then that the law was given.
3. Paul is demonstrating that Adam's sin affected the whole human race. Adam had received a clear oral commandment from God. Centuries later God used Moses to give the divine written word of divine law to men.
4. Although there was sin during that time - there was no transgression - "but sin is not imputed when there is no law" (verse 13). But, when the law came about through Moses, the individual is shown the knowledge of sin in one's life.
5. In verse 14, death never took a holiday (from Adam to Moses), except for Enoch (Gen. 5:24). Death reigned because of the old sin nature man had received from Adam.
6. Adam became our representative for mankind's behavior (our old sin nature). He also became a type (a symbol) of Him to come. In the last part of verse 14 - "who is the figure of him that was to come."

**From verses 15 to 21, Paul now makes a contrast between the issue of what came in Adam and what came in Christ. What they each did different from one another with the problem of sin.

1. The contrast here in this verse is between "the offence" of Adam and "the free gift" of Christ. Because of the offence of Adam, many died.

*The "many" in this verse is all of Adam's descendents and through them much bad was done. In Adam's

Romans 5:15 - But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

fall, we all sinned and we all die.

2. What is the solution to this problem of sin? Answer: The last Adam - "Jesus Christ" - the gift from God for all mankind.

*God's free gift was His crucified Son, risen from the dead and bringing salvation to all who will receive this gift through faith.

3. The free gift of the grace of God comes through the one God Man (Jesus Christ). Our mission as believers comes from I Timothy 2:4 - "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."
1. Another contrast we find here between Adam's sin and Christ's gift.

Romans 5:16 - And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.

*The one offence of Adam brought on judgment - being condemned. The free gift of Christ, on the other hand, dealt with many offences for our justification as believers - the verdict of being acquitted!

2. God's gift releases us from the blame of the guilt we feel when we sin and also from the bondage of death.
3. We can see that judgment was brought about by one sin, while justification was brought about by many sins of all mankind. But, by God's grace all of these have been taken care of by Christ.

Romans 5:17 - For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

1. Because of one man's offence (Adam), death has reigned and is in total control of the human race. You are in bondage to death. But, to those of us who are in Christ, we have an abundant reign in life.
2. We are not only delivered from death's reign, but we reign as kings over Satan, over the world, and over adversaries - enjoying life now and for eternity.
3. Paul is reporting the good news of this gift of God, giving us the gift of righteousness through Christ, Who has made this possible for those who believe in the gospel (I Cor. 15:1-4). Paul wants these people to understand this great gift from God, so he repeats it again in verse 18.

1. Adam's sin brought sin and judgment by his one act of disobedience.

Romans 5:18 - Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

2. Likewise, Christ's one act of obedience is all it took to bring justification and a divine life to those who believe in Christ.

Romans 4:24-25 - But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Rom. 4:25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Romans 5:19 - For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

1. Paul again repeats here the importance of this free gift of righteousness.
2. Notice he uses the word "many" in this verse. Many does not mean "all". Not everyone receives the gift of grace - the grace of God.
3. Universalists try to use verses 18 & 19 to prove that all men will eventually be saved. But we see two headships (Adam & Christ) being two distinct groups: those who are sinners and those who will be made righteous.
4. It all comes down to who you are with: in Adam, or in Christ.

II Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

1. As Paul closes out this chapter on the security of the believer, he shows us the abundant supply of grace.

Romans 5:20 - Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

God manifested His grace, His unmerited favor, to all guilty sinners.

2. The law was established to show that we are sinners and it is impossible to keep it. The law causes sin to be recognized.
3. Grace goes beyond sin and triumphantly trumps over sin.
 *John 1:17 - For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
 *I Timothy 1:14 - And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
4. What a better illustration could there be of the abundant supply of God's grace!
1. Paul ends this great chapter by reminding us of the absolute sovereignty of God's grace.

Romans 5:21 - That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. At the beginning, sin and death were reigning from Genesis to Acts 8. But now, Grace is reigning from Acts 9 to Philemon.
3. Nothing can stand in the way of God's grace because God is sovereign - not even Satan can change that. Our eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord is assured.

*To summarize Romans Chapter 5: We see three great Dispensational Periods that Paul identifies:

1. The Dispensation of Promise (from Adam to Moses)
2. The Dispensation of Law (from Moses until the revelation of the Mystery - given to Paul)
3. The Dispensation of Grace (Paul tells us about the gift of Grace)

*Romans 5 is condemnation by Adam's trespass and the justification by Christ's righteous act of death at Calvary.

**Next week, we start Chapter 6, where it deals with how we are to live the believer's life and have victory over sin.