

Romans 5:12-21

Adam vs Jesus

The passage before us is one of the greatest theological sections in the entire bible

- A) In these 10 verses Paul summarizes the theology of the preceding chapters about the lost-ness of man & his rescue thru God's provision
- B) The difference being that in the preceding chapters Paul dealt w/ the **fruits of sin** (**the guilt & outworking in a life**)
- C) Here in ch. 5 he identifies the root by going back to the origin of sin / back to Adam & the fall!

Read v.12-21

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. 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the **one man's** offense many died, **much more** the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the **one Man**, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the **one** who sinned. For the judgment which came from **one offense** resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

17 For if by the **one man's offense** death **reigned** through the **one**, **much more** those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore, as through **one man's offense** judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through **one Man's** righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by **one man's disobedience** many were made sinners, so also by **one Man's obedience** many will be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded **much more**, 21 so that as sin **reigned** in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

To understand these verses a few general truths about this section need to be understood.

A) First, note the repetition of the word ONE. It is used eleven times.

B) The key idea here is our identification with Adam and with Christ.

C) He sees in Adam the representative of ruined humanity –

1) **and contrast him w/ Christ** - the representative of redeemed Humanity !

D) In Adams family death reigns in Christ's family Deliverance reigns

Second, note the repetition of the word REIGNED which is used 3 times.

A) Paul saw two men—Adam and Christ—each of them reigning over a kingdom.

B) One kingdom is plagued by death – the other Kingdom is all about Life!

C) Finally, note that the phrase much more is repeated 3 times.

1) This means that in Jesus Christ we have gained much more than we ever lost in Adam!

D) In Christ, God has dealt w/ sin , the root, and has devised a means for taking the believer out of Adams family

1) Placing him in the family of God !

Now as we look at this passage tonight I want to do so by Contrasting the work of Adam w/ the work of Christ

A) First look at 4 consequences of Adam's failure in the garden /

B) 2nd look at the blessings of Christ Rescue !

#1 **Because of Adam's disobedience sin entered the world! V.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;*

Now this is what the theologians have called Federal Headship

A) This is a term that means Adam represented all of **HUMANITY in the garden of Eden.**

B) Aaron pulling weeds..... stupid Adam –

C) Adam actually did better than any of us would have done !

C) See Adam was a perfect man - he didn't have any of the bad Habits that you and I have .

1) Wasn't carrying around the baggage that we do !
He was our best representative !

Think of it this way Suppose WWII settled by a Baseball Game!

A) We had to play a one on one basketball game - w/ Russian player – their best against our best.

B) We get to send one player to represent us all - who send ? LeBron? Too old

1) **Steph – too small – KD perfect– 7foot – do it all**

C) So off he goes - and he loses - would any of us think we could have done better ?

1) No because he is the best we had to offer

Now Adam was the best that Humanity had to offer

A) He wasn't made with a sin nature like us and yet - he got beat in the garden of Eden !

Aa) Now some of you might be thinking that you still could have done better than Adam. –

B) You wouldn't have given in to the temptation – If you are thinking that – **I have a challenge for you.**

1) Try to go one week without sinning in any way!

C) Seven days w/out thinking a bad thought / w/out losing temper / w/out saying an unkind word / w/out doing anything wrong !

1) See how well you do !

D) You will find out you truly would have fared worse than Adam !

1) So first thing we see Adam's failure resulted in Sin entering the world

#2 V.12 Because of Adams disobedience Death entered the World

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;

A) From the minute a person is born they begin not only to live but to die / Every place on body shrinking except nose & ears (I'm in trouble)

B) God said to Adam if you eat You will die !

- 1) Death was the Result of Adams sin / Spiritual death / Physical death –
- 2) Adam & Eve eventually died !

C) Some people deny the existence of God - but they cannot deny the existence

1) stats on death very impressive 10 out of 10 die

D) They have to deal w/ that

- 1) So when encounter someone who says *I don't believe in God - I ask what happens when you die ?*

They go into some theory that they might have - reincarnation - (always a king or some important person)

A) Or They just cease to exist – THIS LIFE IS IT

B) I ask them well what is your theory based on ?

1) Opinion -

C) Share: The Bible says that it is appointed unto man once to die..... Judgment

1) So what happens if you are wrong when you die !

D) Most people don't like to think about death - but **must face fact all die**

The atheistic French philosopher, **Voltaire, declared,** 'Christianity will be non-existent 100 years after my death.'

But exactly 100 years after his death, the European Bible Society bought his house and turned it into the largest printing press for Bibles.

So the fact of the matter is Thru Adam sin entered the world & death thru sin

A) And we are linked to Adam thru his sin / our Rep /

13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.)

B) Sin was in the world before the law was given – the law simply defined sin for us.

1) Showed man what he was guilty of doing

C) Sin resulted in death – death reigned

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.

D) death reigned - no escaping it!

17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one,

E) Phillips Lit. made us slaves to death

1) Fear of death

What does Paul mean when he says that Adam is a type of Christ ?

A) The answer is they both through one ACT affected countless numbers of the human race

B) Adam could also be called an anti-type of Christ
1) because what is true of Adam is only true of Christ in the opposite sense

C) That is what Paul is revealing in this text – we will see the opposite affect that Christ had in a minute

1) Lets first look at the next 2 consequences of Adam's disobedience

#3 Because of Adams disobedience Judgment & condemnation entered the World V.16 *And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation,*

A) Through Adam's Sin we are all guilty !

B) Guilt and Shame – the result of Adam's sin

1) **Adam and Eve – naked and Ashamed**

C) Sin destroys innocence

1) Marriage – family – friends

D) Feel guilty because we are guilty!

E) Adam's Sin brought condemnation into the world

1) Destined for Judgment

#4 Because of Adams disobedience, many were made sinners v19 *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners,*

A) Every person born after Adam was born with a sin nature.

B) We are not called sinners because we sin – No we sin because we are sinners

B) Ingrained in our nature:

1) **Selfishness – Lying – Pride** – are not learned behaviors they are innate within our very being.

C) It is who we are at the core – and we owe that to Adam.

D) So that is what Adam did for us / Now lets contrast that by looking at what Jesus did for us !

#1 Notice that Through Adam's disobedience Sin entered the world

A) we were left w/ a debt ! In Adam we come up short Found wanting / lacking Bankrupt

B) But through one man Jesus grace abounds to the world! V.15

But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

#2 Through Adam's disobedience death entered the world and death reigned

#2 But in Christ obedience - Righteousness reigns

But in Christ we reign – V.17b *much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)*

C) Thru Christ we receive complete deliverance! We reign in that we can now have victory over sin / no longer fear death

D) In Christ we go from being those who were overcome to those who are overcomers!

1) In Christ we go from being Paupers to Princes / from the Prison to the Palace ! Co- heirs who will rule & reign w/ Christ !

#3 Adam's disobedience resulted in condemnation and Judgment

A) Through Christ Gift we receive Justification & Life
16 And the gift is not like that which came through the **one** who sinned. For the judgment which came from **one offense** resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

B) Released from blame / guilt

1) Sins forgiven and forgotten

C) Adam's one transgression brought Judgment and shame –

1) Jesus' obedience brought forgiveness to millions

D) Justification – Declared Righteous

1) Not empty words – Not I am not holding it against you

E) Talking TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

#4 Adam's disobedience many were made sinners – In Jesus obedience many are made righteous V.19

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

A) My sin imputed to Jesus

B) His Righteousness imputed to me

V.20 is one of the most powerful in the whole bible ! Must not forget

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound.

A) "The Ten Commandments never were given to make men do right. "

B) We sometimes think that was their purpose,

1) But Paul reveals – the commandments were given to reveal just how wrong we really are.

C) The revelation of the Law – made the offenses abound

D) Paul would say Romans 7:7 – I would not have known that covetousness was wrong.... Not covet

1) Apparently that was a problem for Paul when he was Saul of Tarsus

E) The law simply revealed – How deep into sin we were

Jesus made it worse – not just actions – but attitudes

A) Murder and Adultery

B) Paul says the Law was given to show us just how bad of sinners we really are /

1) thru the law is the knowledge of sin

C) The ten commandments were given to show us how wrong we already are, and when we know what they are sin more

1) Something in us - that makes us want to break law
- / Wet Paint – TOUCH IT

My wife / don't snack before dinner / especially don't touch the desert

A) I always want to sample the desert !

B) Women's meeting brownies – moving them around the tray – sinner

Hotel in Houston over looking a lake - rooms all had balconies - face the water - sign No fishing allowed

A) Became a terrible problem - fishing line - crashing into rooms below

B) Couldn't solve the problem - called in an expert - know what he said - *take down the no fishing sign* ! – Problem was Solved

C) That is our sin nature – that is why sin abounds – it is in our nature to sin

D) GOOD NEWS - *But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,*

E) SUPER ABOUNDED – WAY MORE GRACE TO COVER ALL OUR SIN

WRAP UP

21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Phillips in his unique style paraphrases this verse...

The whole outlook changes - sin used to be the master of men and in the end handed them over to death: now grace is the ruling factor, with righteousness as its purpose and its end the bringing of men to the eternal life of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.