

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 5

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this amazing letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome and to us about the fundamentals of Christianity.

The Gospel of grace

We have seen Paul present the case that man is not made right before God through his own deeds or the keeping of the law, but simply through faith.

Our salvation is not a matter of something we've earned, it is a "grace", a free, undeserved, gift from God.

All we do is trust Him to receive it.

In our text this morning, Paul is going to be making a contrast between Adam and Jesus.

Adam and what he did verse Jesus and what He did and how both of their acts affect all of humanity.

Peter actually wrote in 2 Peter 3:16 – that Paul wrote many things that are hard to understand.

I am going to warn you – this is probably the most difficult portion of any of Paul's letters to understand.

Let's pray...

Read Text

We are going to be looking at the tale of two men

And the reason is that these are the two individuals who every single one of us will have to deal with in some way.

No matter who we are

No matter what generation you are from – all of us have these two individuals that are an integral part of our lives

One being Adam and the other one being Jesus (by the way – Jesus is the New and better Adam)

[Rom 5:12-21 NKJV] 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—**

When Adam sinned – sin entered and affected all humanity – that is what the bible teaches.

The bible teaches that the presence of sin and the brokenness in the world is because of the transgression of Adam – when he disobeyed God and ate of the forbidden fruit.

Chronologically, Eve ate of the fruit first – but theologically, Adam is the first sinner.

One man – by the way, Paul is going to use this word “one” over and over again in our text.

He is going to use it 11 times in our text alone

So keep an eye for the word “One”

Also, keep an eye for the word “reign”

And “much more”

Adam really blew it

He disobeyed God

He sinned against God

And the world today continues to experience the fallout of what Adam did in the very beginning.

And when one looks at the account of the Garden of Eden –

After Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit –

Adam tried to hide his nakedness

He introduced death

A curse

Sorrow

Thorns

His action caused humanity to be alienated and distant from God

But God.....

Jesus dealt with all these things when He dwelt among us

Death - **[Heb 2:9 NKJV] 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.**

Nakedness – John tells us in John 19:23 that He was stripped of His tunic when they crucified Him to the cross.

Thorns – Jesus deals with thorns by wearing a crown of thorns Himself

Sorrow - **[Isa 53:4 NKJV] 4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.**

Curse - [Gal 3:13 NKJV] 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed [is] everyone who hangs on a tree"),

You see loved ones, what Paul is trying to do here in our text is to paint a picture of everything that was lost in Adam – is now found in Jesus

Everything that Adam lost – Jesus finds and deals with

Now, the name Adam in Hebrew – “means humanity/mankind”

And I had you make a note of that last phrase – because all sinned.

Past tense –

When Adam fell, because he was the only man, he was humanity –

When he fell, we were in him both physically and spiritually, meaning that we were there and sinned with him.

The choice he made is the choice we made

And for the individual who says – I would not have made the same mistake Adam did - the proof we would have done what Adam did is that we ratify his disobedient choice every time we sin.

Man was created in the image of God,

However, after Adam sinned it says that his children were born “in his image” which was now fallen and broken.

You see, we are not sinners because we sin – we sin because we are sinners.

[Gen 5:1-3 NKJV] 1 This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created. 3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot [a son] in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

So – Adam’s sin is our sin.

His rebellion is our rebellion.

The consequence of his sin is the consequence for us.

Since the wages of sin are death, death has spread to all humanity

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.

Why is their death in the world?

Why do our plants die?

Why do our pets die?

Why do our loved ones die?

Some would argue that the reason is that this is natural – things live and then they die.

Some would even argue that death is normal.

But that is not what the bible teaches us

Death is not normal

Death is something that was never supposed to be part of our life or part of our world.

Death is a consequence of sin

So Paul reminds us that from Adam until the law was given to Moses on Mt Sinai, people still sinned even though they might have been unaware that they were sinners.

How do we know that they sinned?

Because there was death

That is something we read over and over again in Genesis

So and so lived to this age and then he died

Abraham died, Isaac died, Jacob died, Joseph died

Not only were they sinners by nature, they were sinners by choice

Cain, before he killed Abel – he was a sinner by nature (Adam) but when he murdered his brother, he was also a sinner by choice.

All the Law did was identify just how far and hard the human race has fallen.

The law held man accountable for what he does

But 2000 years before the law, man died for what he was.

Paul actually touched on this – back in chapter 2

[Rom 2:12 NKJV] 12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

Now, I had you make a note of that last phrase in verse 14 –

That Paul writes – that Adam is a type of Him who was to come (speaking of Jesus)

Remember, Adam sinned and brought sin upon humanity.

Here is what Paul is arguing –

If one man – Adam – could drag the who human race into sin

Paul argues that Jesus Christ, as our representative, can return us all back into a right relationship with God, in Christ.

When Jesus hung on the cross on Calvary

Not only was He our substitute –

He was our representative -

We hung there with Him as our sins were laid on His shoulders

We died with Him

We were buried with Him through baptism unto death – we are going to look at this next week in Romans 6:4

Adam did one act that affected all of us. Jesus did one act that affected all of us.

So this is how Adam is a type of Christ.

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.

Even though Paul has already told us that Adam is a type of Jesus

He is very careful to make sure that we don't compare the offence of Adam with the gift of Jesus (grace) too far.

I made a reference to the much more's that Paul uses over and over again in the Book of Romans – especially in this chapter – and each of the much mores is all by grace.

I want you to think about this question.

How many people were affected by Adam's fall? All people

How many people have the opportunity to experience God's grace and salvation in Christ? All people

But here is the thing, God's grace is overflowing.

Picture an empty cup – that is Adam's offense.

The work of Jesus upon the cross and His resurrection not only fills the cup with grace, He overflows it with His grace so that we can overflow it to each other.

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.

Paul continues to contrast Adam's offense with the free gift that Jesus offers

Adam's sin brings death

Adam's sin brought judgment, it resulted in our condemnation.

Adam brings ruin

Do we have a choice whether we want this gift? No

Jesus brings grace and righteousness

Jesus brings redemption – justification

Is this a gift that we would welcome? Yes

Adam disobeys God and brings death

Jesus obeys and is killed and brings life.

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.)

Without Jesus Christ, we will find that sin and death rule in your life.

No matter how hard we try, we will find ourself falling into the pit.

But with Jesus, we now have the choice to “reign” in “life”.

It's when we receive the “abundance of grace” and the “gift of righteousness” that we have the ability to “reign”.

How does this work?

It starts with the choice.

It starts with “receiving”.

Receiving an “abundance of grace” and the “gift of righteousness”.

A starting point for this comes when we learn to confess our sin.

(1 John 1:9 NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We find “grace”, we find “righteousness” when we admit our sin to God.

Turn to Luke 19

The Lord put this portion of scripture in my heart this past Friday

[Luk 19:1-10 NKJV] 1 Then [Jesus] entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, [there was] a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that [way]. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw [it], they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Look at what grace and forgiveness does to a person:

Zacchaeus found acceptance with Jesus.

Jesus reached out to Him

Zaccheus responds the abundant grace that was shown to Him

It changed him from being a self-centered man to a man who made things right with people.

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.

So Paul's finishing thought here – as he begins to wrap it up.

He contrasts the two acts of Adam and Jesus

He reiterates what he has been saying for the last few verses.

In Adam, fallout

But God makes a way.

In other words, what man could not do or would not do, God did and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you and me.

He laid His life down for me so that I would be right with God

Adam hides from God – but in Jesus we are given access to God – we saw this earlier in the chapter in verse 2 and here we see it again in verse 18.

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, **grace abounded much more,**

Here we have another “much more”

I mentioned earlier how the “much more’s” are tied into God’s grace.

God didn’t give the law to Moses to save humanity

God gave the law to Moses to reveal that we are law breakers

And the knowledge of that fact would reveal sin and not conceal sin

But God’s abundant grace would meet the demands of the law and when Jesus died,

God’s grace would supply what the law could never supply –

Salvation from sin

Eternal life

Grace

And then more grace and then more grace

Think of sin as a dam – holding back water (grace)

The point of the passage is that sin cannot build a dam high enough that grace cannot overflow.

But Pastor – you don't know what I have done. My dam is pretty high.

God's grace can overflow that.

Where sin abounded, grace can abound much more

So for those that think we have tapped out God's grace – we really don't understand God and we really don't understand His grace.

Back in the Garden of Eden

Adam and Eve sinned.

They are standing there in the nakedness

“We have to cover ourselves” – they find itchy fig leaves – religion.

What does God do?

God provides them both with animal skins to cover themselves

To get animal skins- you have to get the animal, you have to kill the animal

You have to shed that animal's innocent blood.

It wasn't the animals who ate of the forbidden fruit – it was Adam and Eve

But God took the animal, killed the animal, shed the blood, took the skins and provided clothing.

Grace

BTW

This is a principle we find in the New Testament

[Heb 9:22 NKJV] 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

God was demonstrating that a substitute can be offered in the place of the one who committed the sin.

With Adam and Eve, one animal had to die for each of them. Adam needed a skin and Eve needed a skin

As we get further along in the scriptures, in the Exodus, one animal had to die for the family (Passover)

Later on, on the Day of Atonement, God allows one lamb for an entire nation

And by the time we get to the New Testament – John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and says, Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

One man – undoes the damage done by Adam

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

Paul as he is making these contrasts – he isn't simply providing for a theology lesson so that we might understand the depravity of man and the wonder of salvation.

Paul wants the readers – he wants you and me to declare ourselves in Adam or in Jesus Christ.

The default for everyone is in Adam

But by grace through faith – we can choose to be in Jesus

This is why Paul says -

[2Co 5:17 NKJV] 17 Therefore, if anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

I want to finish with this –

I am pretty sure an old dead person came up with these very wise words –

It's actually a well known nursery rhyme

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall

Humpty Dumpty had a great fall

All the king's horses and all the king's men

Couldn't put Humpty together again

Adam and all those who are in Adam – they are Humpty Dumpty

They have fallen, they have shattered

Religion, philosophies, traditions all cannot put them back together again.

Only Jesus can

Amen

Let's pray...

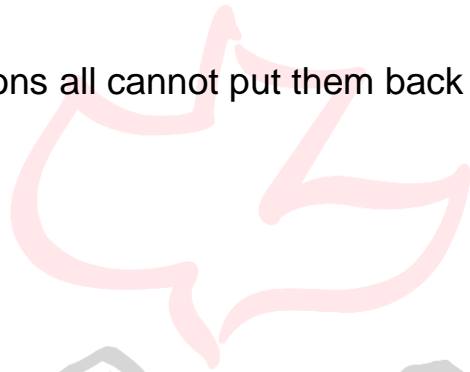
To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.



CALVARY
Santa Cruz

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[2Co 9:8 NKJV] 8 And God [is] able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all [things], may have an abundance for every good work.

One of the things that I have found in my life is that even though I have begun in the grace of God

I need to keep simply responding to Jesus to continue in the grace of God

And my prayer is that in our hearts we would be saying, "Lord I want your grace to abound more and more"

May this be a season of grace and may we live a life of grace and trust that His grace is going to lead us forward

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

