

Romans

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes”

– Romans 1:16

Peace with God: Lost and Regained

- **Romans 5:12-21 – A parallel showing Adam an (opposite) type of Christ**
 - vs. 12, 18-19 state the main point of the passage, and should be read/understood together
 - 14-17 provide additional proof of that statement, and should be understood in the context of validating/clarifying vs. 12,18-19
 - vs. 20-21 make an additional conclusion that leads into chapter 6
 - **Main point: just as through Adam condemnation came to all people bringing spiritual death, even so through Christ justification came making life available to all people**
 - That is, after Adam introduced sin, all who sinned became condemned before God
 - But because of Christ's obedience, life is available to all – conditioned upon obedient faith (Rom 1:16; Heb 5:9)

Peace with God: Lost and Regained

- **Romans 5:12,18-19 – The action and consequences of Adam:**

- *“Sin entered the world”* through one man’s disobedience (vs. 19), even one trespass (i.e. the forbidden fruit)
 - This refers back to Genesis 3 when Adam knowingly disobeyed God (cf. I Tim 2:14)
 - This event opened the door to sin – before this there was literally nothing bad (cf. Gen 1:31)
 - *After this event everything changed:*
 - the creation (Gen 3 with Rom 8)
 - the physical condition of man (I Cor 15)
 - the spiritual condition of man (Rom 5)
 - the sway of Satan (I John 5:19)

Peace with God: Lost and Regained

- **Romans 5:12,18-19 – The action and consequences of Adam:**
 - “*and death through sin,*” i.e. death entered the world through sin
 - This must refer to spiritual, not physical death:
 - Placed in parallel to “life” that is available through Christ – cf. Jam 1:21; I Pet 1:9,22; I Cor 15:50ff; John 6:40; Rom 2:7; etc.
 - The physical creation was changed after Adam and Eve sinned, but the immediate consequence of *our* sins is not physical death
 - Some who sinned never died (e.g. Enoch and Elijah), while some who never sinned did/do die (e.g. Christ, children)
 - Sin causes separation from God (Isa 59:1-2), the giver of life, and the “wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23, Eph 2:1)
 - **Our souls die, not because of Adam, but “because all sin” – this is what chapters 1-3 were all about!**

Peace with God: Lost and Regained

- **Romans 5:12,18-19 – The action and results of Christ:**
 - “*even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men*”
 - Through Christ’s obedience unto the death of the cross (Heb 5:8-9; Isa 53), life is regained (through justification by faith)
 - This statement must be understood as saying that justification and life are *made available*, but not automatic, to all (Rom 1:16)
 - In fact, if we examine the parallel closely, those who became sinners/condemned in Adam are *those who sinned* (vs. 18 with 12)
 - Thus, those who become justified/alive in Christ are those who *become obedient as He was* (vs. 18-19 with Heb 5:9, etc.)
 - i.e. if “many were made sinners” = all who sinned, then “many will be made righteous” = all who are obedient by faith

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- **Romans 5:12,18-19 – The action and results of Christ:**
 - *“even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men”*
 - Through Christ’s obedience unto the death of the cross (Heb 5:8-9; Isa 53), life is regained (through justification by faith)
 - *“many will be made righteous”* – i.e. justified in God’s sight: Christ allows us to reverse the consequence of sin
 - *After the cross, all consequences of Adam are reversed:*
 - the creation, redemption and glory (II Pet 3:13, Rev 21:1)
 - the “physical” condition of man (I Cor 15, I John 3:2)
 - the spiritual condition of man (Rom 4-5)
 - the sway of Satan (I John 2:17, II Pet 3:10-13)
 - **All things lost are regained and made infinitely better!**

Peace with God: Lost and Regained

- **Romans 5:12ff – Adam vs. Christ: an antithetical parallel**

- **One man** – i.e. Adam

- a “type,” in contrast

- **One transgression**

- i.e. the forbidden fruit

- **Result:** judgment unto condemnation

- **Effect:** spiritual death

- **Extent:** to all who sin

- *not unconditional*

- **One Man** – i.e. Christ

- **One righteous act**

- i.e. the cross

- **Result:** grace unto justification

- **Effect:** eternal life

- **Extent:** to all who believe

- *not unconditional*

“Grace abounded all the more” (vs. 16,20) – i.e. Christ’s death covers not just Adam’s individual sin, but all sins of all who are justified by faith: **God’s grace always exceeds sin!**

Peace with God: Lost and Regained

- **Romans 5:12ff – Some clarification:**

- This passage in no way teaches that all people inherit Adam's guilt
 - Spiritual death "*spread to all men because all sinned*" (this was the point of Rom 1:18-3:20; cf. Eze 18:20; Rom 6:23)
 - If inherited, original sin were Paul's point, surely Eve would take the place of Adam in this text: she sinned first...
- "*The Law came in so that the transgression would increase...*" (NASU)
 - "*Came in*" refers to God giving that Law through Moses (vs. 14)
 - "*would increase*" cannot mean that the Law made man more sinful (nor that this was God's intent)
 - Through the Law came abundant knowledge of man's own sinfulness (Rom 7:7-12)...along with awareness of his need for grace that always abounds over sin!

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