

NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL

— A Study of Romans —

Lesson Ten

Romans 5:12-21

*Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men,
so one act of righteousness leads to
justification and life for all men.
Romans 5:18*

Day 1

Pray: Psalm 25:5

*Father, Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my
salvation; for you I wait all the day long.*

Read: Romans 5:12-21. Read it again in another translation such as NLT.

Observe:

- Write key words and themes, repeated words, or phrases. Circle on your Scripture pages any transition words (therefore, but, because, if/then etc.)
- Are there any commands to be obeyed, or truths to be trusted?
- What questions do you have about the text?

Day 2- Romans 5:12-14

This second half of chapter five is connected to the first half by the word, *therefore*. (I hope you are noticing these important connecting words now.) In the first half of chapter five Paul teaches that justification, reconciliation, and salvation come to us through the work of Jesus—his life, death, and resurrection. This should make us wonder how the sacrifice of one person could have attained such an incredible blessing for so many. This is the important question Paul is answering in this section.

1. How did sin come into the world according to verse 12?
 - a. How did death come into the world?
 - b. What was the result of sin entering the world?
 - c. Why did death spread to all human beings?

Scholar's Note: "*Death...* is not limited to the inevitable end of physical existence; "death" includes the curses God pronounced in Genesis and eternal separation from Him in eternity."¹

Digging Deeper:

How did Adam bring sin into the world according to the verses below?

The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die... The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.'" Genesis 2:15-17, 3:12(NLT)

Scholar's Note: "*because all sinned*" in verse 12 is in the aorist tense [I don't know what this is either, but it's ok, we just need to know that it points to a single past action]. Paul is saying the whole human race sinned in one past action."² Adam was our representative, so that when he sinned, so did we. "Thus every human being is born (a) guilty of Adam's sin, and (b) corrupted by Adam's sin. This is called "original sin."³

2. Verse 13 says that *sin is not counted where there is no law*. Look back to 2:15. Why are people still guilty of sin even without God's written commands?

Scholar's Note: The word "counted" in verse 13 is another accounting term, meaning "to charge against one's account." With or without the accounting ledger (the law) we are still guilty. The ledger or law just makes us aware of the scope and specificity of our debt.⁴ When it says *sin is not counted*, it means "because there was no explicit list of commands, there was no strict accounting of their specific points of violation."⁵

Digging Deeper:

The last part of verse 14 tells us that Adam was a type of the one who was to come; he was a shadow pointing us to the real thing. Read the verses in Genesis. What was God's purpose in creating Adam? How did Adam fail in this?

26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth and the small animals that scurry along the ground."

27 So God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27 (NLT)

-Read the following verses. How did Jesus succeed where Adam failed?

He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God...Colossians 1:15a

...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power... Hebrew 1:2-3a

This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. Hebrews 4:15 (NLT)

He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. 1 Peter 2:22 (NLT)

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

Picture and Ponder

You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. Even those who didn't sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it. Romans 5:12-14 (MSG)

Day 3- Romans 5:15-17

1. In verse 15, Paul tells us how different Adam and Jesus are. What is he contrasting in the first line of verse 15?

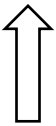
For Discussion

How did Jesus' gift display self-sacrifice? How did Adam's trespass display self-exaltation?

2. What differences do you see between Adam's trespass and the free gift of God in verses 15-17?

Adam's trespass

God's free gift



Thank you Jesus that you canceled sin and death and brought abounding grace, righteousness and life to me through your life, death and resurrection!

Picture and Ponder

"That one single misdeed should be answered by judgment, this is perfectly understandable: that the accumulated sins and guilt of all the ages should be answered by God's free gift, this is the miracle of miracles, utterly beyond human comprehension."⁶

3. Write out verse 17 in the NLT

4. What ruled over us because of Adam's sin according to verse 17?

- a. How are the tables turned for those who receive God's abundant grace and free gift of righteousness?

For Discussion

In verse 17, Paul says that *death reigned*, but the contrast is not that *life reigned*, instead he says that those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness *reign in life*. What does it mean that we reign in life?



We may not think it is fair that *many died through one man's trespass* (v.15), but we know that if we were in Adam's place, we would have done the same thing he did, in fact we've proven this many times. Jesus came as the second Adam, obeying God perfectly, reflecting his image flawlessly and loving us selflessly! This is why Jesus left heaven and came to earth as a human being—so that he could ably and graciously represent us! We need only to trust in Jesus' life, death and resurrection on our behalf and our representation will be transferred from the first Adam to the second Adam—Jesus our wonderful Savior.

- ◆ The benefits that come to us with Jesus as our representative are immense. They do not merely offset the result of Adam's sin but go far above and beyond in blessing. Let's savor these benefits from verse 17. How do these blessings impact your heart and life?

Justification-

abundance of grace-

free gift of righteousness-

reigning in life-

Day 4- Romans 5:18-19

1. Verses 15-17 showed the contrast between Adam and Jesus. Verses 18-19 show a similarity. Write in your own words the main point of verses 18 and 19. (What is the similarity?)

Scholar's Note: When Paul says that *one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for **all men***, we understand that "the second *all men* in verse 18 refers to *those who receive the abundance of grace*, in verse 17. Paul has said repeatedly that justification is through faith, so the "all" in 18b is all who have faith."

Scholar's Note: The concept Paul is teaching here, in theological terms, is called federal headship. It is the idea of a representative (which has already been

mentioned in the study). “A representative involves those they represent in the fruits of his or her action, for good or ill.”⁷ Every human being is represented by Adam or by Jesus.

Digging Deeper

Read the passage from Hebrews below. Jesus as our representative is in solidarity with us. This is an amazing thought—the Word who became flesh is in solidarity with human beings! Highlight the ways you see this displayed in the following verses.

⁹ *What we do see is Jesus, who for a little while was given a position “a little lower than the angels”; and because he suffered death for us, he is now “crowned with glory and honor.” Yes, by God’s grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone. ¹⁰ God, for whom and through whom everything was made, chose to bring many children into glory. And it was only right that he should make Jesus, through his suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them into their salvation.*

¹¹ *So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters. ¹² For he said to God,*

*“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.
I will praise you among your assembled people.”*

¹³ *He also said,*

*“I will put my trust in him,”
that is, “I and the children God has given me.”*

¹⁴ *Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. ¹⁵ Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying. Hebrews 2:9-15 (NLT)*



Jesus it is so amazing to me that you stand with us as human beings! You give me your righteousness and put your arm around my shoulder as my brother and take me to the Father. Thank you Jesus!

2. How are we made righteous according to verse 19?



Jesus' death paid the penalty for our sins, but that is only half the good news. Jesus' life of perfect obedience inwardly and outwardly, all the way to the cross, is credited to our account so that we have his perfect record of obedience as our own. Our debt is canceled, *and* our account is full—permanently!

- ◆ How does it impact you to know that if you are in Christ, when God looks at you, he sees Jesus' perfect record of obedience?

Day 5- Romans 5:20-21

1. What was the purpose and effect of the law according to verse 20 (See NLT)?
2. The word *abounded* in verse 20 expresses a *super* increase. In your own words, what is the good news about the law increasing sin?

Picture and Ponder

"The law proves that it is not lack of knowledge which prevents us from obeying God and keeping his standards, but rather, lack of willingness and ability. We do not need to put in more effort; we need a rescue."⁸

Digging Deeper

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught the full meaning of God's law. Read part of Jesus' sermon in Matthew 5 below. How does this help us understand one way the law increases sin? How does Jesus' explanation of the law make you more aware of sin in your own life?

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' **22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother^[a] will be liable to judgment; whoever insults^[a] his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell^[a] of fire.

27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' **39** But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. **40** And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic,^[b] let him have your cloak as well. **41** And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. **42** Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 38-42

For Discussion

The law causes sin to increase by making us more aware of sin in our lives and it also causes sin to increase by awakening our rebellious nature which wants to do the opposite. How have you seen this effect at work in your own life?

3. What is the purpose of super abounding grace according to verse 21?



The word *reign* is kingdom language. It means to reign as king, to wield kingly rule, to exercise authority. If you are in Adam, sin reigns in your life and will result in death, but if you are united to Jesus by faith, then grace reigns in your life resulting in eternal life.

- ◆ If you are in Christ, what does it look like to have grace reign in your life each day at home and out in the world?

Picture and Ponder

"Grace reigns whenever Jesus' imputed righteousness fosters personal and social righteousness."⁹

One Thing:

What is one thing from this week's study that God has impressed on your heart, or convicted you about; is there something new that you learned or is there a verse you want to ponder and meditate on?

Praise God for this and thank him for the work he is doing in your life. Ask him to help you remember this and live it out for his glory.

¹ Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Romans (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 6) (p. 129). Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

² Keller, Timothy. Romans 1-7 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series) (p. 139). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

³ Kruger, Michael <https://cdn.rts.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Sermon-Notes-Romans-L4.pdf>

⁴ Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Romans (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 6) (p. 129). Tyndale House Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Mac Arthur, John The MacArthur Bible Commentary, P. 1521 Thomas Nelson Inc. 2005

⁶ Cranfield, C.E.B. Romans A Shorter Commentary, Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1985, p.118

⁷ Keller, Timothy. Romans 1-7 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You - Romans Series) (p. 136). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Ibid. p.145

⁹ Doriani, Daniel M.. Romans (p. 261). P&R Publishing. Kindle Edition.