

Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

3/7/2021 PM

"Adam and the Reign of Death - Christ and the Reign of Life" Romans 5:12-21



Introduction:

I. HOW PEACE WITH GOD WAS LOST (vs. 12-14)

A. The Present Situation (vs. 12)

"therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin"

- 1) sin entered the world through one man (Genesis 2:16-17)
- 2) death entered the human race through sin (I Corinthians 15:22; Hebrews 9:27)
- 3) because all sinned, death spread to all men (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

"and so death spread to all men, because all sinned –"

B. The Pre-Law Stage (vs. 13-14)

"for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law"

Romans 2:12-16

"nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam"

"who is a type of Him who was to come"

II. HOW PEACE WITH GOD WAS RECOVERED (vs. 15-21)

A. The Gift of Righteousness (vs. 15-17)

¹⁵ "but the free gift is not like the transgression"

"for if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many"

❶ the sin of Adam vs. the free gift of Christ

¹⁶ "the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned"

"for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation"

"but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification"

❷ one transgression resulting in condemnation vs. one righteous act resulting in justification

¹⁷ “for if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one...”

“...much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ”

⑤ the reign of death through sin vs. the reign of life through Christ

*To see the law by Christ fulfilled,
And hear His pardoning voice,
Changes the slave into a child,
And duty into choice.*

– William Cowper

B. The Grace that Reigns through Righteousness (vs. 18-21)

¹⁸ “so then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men”

“even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men”

④ condemnation to all men vs. justification to all men who believe (vs. 17)

¹⁹ “for as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous”

- 1) the imputation of Adam's sin to the whole human race (I Corinthians 15:21-22)
- 2) the imputation of the sin of the elect to Jesus Christ, who bore that sin's penalty in his death on the cross (II Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13)
- 3) the imputation of the righteousness of God to the elect (Romans 3:26; 4:5)

⑤ Adam’s disobedience imputes sin vs. Christ’s obedience imputes righteousness

²⁰ “the Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more”

⑥ the abundance of sin vs. the abundance of grace

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

⑦ condemned people subjected to eternal death vs. redeemed people recipients of eternal life

Conclusion:

“Adam came from the earth, but Jesus is the Lord from heaven (1 Cor. 15:47). Adam was tested in a Garden, surrounded by beauty and love; Jesus was tempted in a wilderness, and He died on a cruel cross surrounded by hatred and ugliness. Adam was a thief and was cast out of Paradise; but Jesus Christ turned to a thief and said, “Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). The Old Testament is “the book of the generations of Adam” (Gen. 5:1) and it ends with “a curse” (Mal. 4:6). The New Testament is “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ” (Matt. 1:1) and it ends with “no more curse” (Rev. 22:3).”

– Warren Wiersbe