

“Who's Your Daddy?”

Romans 5:12-21

Let's take a quick walk back through the first 5 chapters of Romans, as we are about to close out chapter 5 and the first 3 letters of our acronym G.O.S.P.E.L.!

G = Greeting

Romans 1:1 (sets the framework of Romans)

Romans 1:16-17 (theme of Romans)

O = Offender/Offense of Heaven (SIN)

Romans 1:18 (sin begets the wrath of God)

S = Solution (SALVATION)

Romans 3:21-31 (explains THE gospel of Jesus Christ)

Last week... with Pastor Mike

Romans 5:1-11 = “Six Grace-Links in the Chain of Eternal Security”

v.1 = having “**peace** with God”

v.2 = “this **grace** in which we stand”

v.3-5 = “**hope** of the **glory of God**”

v.5-8 = “**God** demonstrates His own **love toward us**”

v.9-10 = “we shall be **saved from the wrath** of God”

v.11 = “**we rejoice in God** through our Lord Jesus Christ”

Key verse: “...*having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him...*”

THIS WEEK... we will finish Romans 5... (vv.12-21)....

*** Ends the section or “Salvation” and drops us off at the door of “P”
“Purification” (a.k.a. “SANCTIFICATION”)

*** That means we’ll have the following left to cover after today:

P: Purification (SANCTIFICATION)

E: Everything (SOVEREIGNTY)

L: Love (SERVE)

! : Warning!

T/S: So let’s open up God’s Word together and see how He inspired Paul to guide us through the closing instructions of Romans chapter 5...

FOR STARTERS....

If you recall, a few weeks ago, as we were unpacking Romans 3:21-31, I told you that many giants of the faith, past & present, believed that particular passage was/is the single most important passage in all the Bible... because it explains the gospel and its essential truths...

Well today...

...in **ROMANS 5:12-21**... we will be looking at what many theologians believe to be **the most difficult passage** in Paul’s inspired letter to the Roman church...

With that said, I think it is important and worth our time to address a point of principle before we begin...

In short, I want to deal with this issue of **“difficult passage” head on**...

First, I want to **define “difficult passage”**

Then I want to **deal with the definition** of difficult...

1. Okay... so what makes a passage in the Bible “difficult?”
 - a. This “hard” question has a simple answer...

b. Answer:

- i. Either it is hard to *understand*...
- ii. Or it is hard to *believe*...

2. If a biblical question is hard to “understand,” the answer is to pray, asking the Lord to reveal His truth to you, and then go to God’s Word for the answers. For those who need additional help, use reliable, Bible believing, God honoring resources to help you mine for the truth, all the while praying and asking the Holy Spirit to give you discernment along the way. And lastly, to the extent you are able, ask reliable, Bible believing, God honoring people that are spiritually mature to help you.

*** NOTE: You don’t need to fully understand electricity or gravity to embrace their their important & powerful realities...

3. But... what if I “understand” what the Bible is saying...

I JUST HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING IT?

*** If we’re honest... this is where most of us are...

*** Not about “comprehension” but “commitment”

*** Not about a lack of “facts” but a lack of faith!

4. Remember Romans 4... the faith of Abraham...

a. Read Hebrews 11:1

b. Senses don’t have to be satisfied if your faith is full...

c. Biblical faith does not fear biblical mystery...

d. If there were no mystery... **faith would be a formula.**

e. **“No matter what!”**

f. **“God said it, that settles it!”**

T/S: Alright... that was a long introduction but a necessary one...

Let’s go into God’s Word together! Romans 5:12-21

This morning: ***“Dead DNA vs Living Adoption”***

We're going to look at the downside of our DNA & and upside of our adoption into the family of God...

...for those who have been justified by grace through faith...
and ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED.

First, we'll look at how SIN got into our DNA...

Then, we'll see the glory of God's grace-filled, blood-bought adoptions!

I. SIN BEGINS... and WINS the WORLD!

Illustration: Cemetery photo from **Urumqi**, China (endless death)

- A. **SIN entered the world thru ONE MAN (v.12a) = "Therefore, when Adam sinned, sin entered the world..."**
- a. "Therefore" = link back to vv.8-11 (justified by grace/cross)
 - b. Key = in relationship of **"by one" - many affected**
 - c. Genesis 2:15-17 = God set the standard not to be broken...
 - d. Even tho it was Eve who sinned first, Adam is responsible...
 - i. Note the relationship... Leader is responsible!
 - ii. Too many husbands are surrendering their leadership...
 - iii. Too many wives act like husbands and then wonder why their husbands won't...
 - iv. And since we're here... too many parents are surrendering their responsibility to lead their children... trying to be their "friends"
 - v. NOTE: God says we have equal "value" BUT different roles!
 - e. **Qt:** *"Mankind is a single entity, constituting a divinely ordered solidarity. Adam represents the entire human race that is descended from him, no matter how many subgroups there may be. Therefore, when Adam sinned, all mankind sinned, and because his first sin transformed his inner nature, that now depraved nature was also transmitted to his posterity (future generations). Because he became spiritually polluted, all his descendants would be polluted in the same way. That pollution has, in fact, accumulated and intensified throughout the ages of human history. Instead of evolving, as*

(worldly) humanists insist, man has devolved, degenerating into greater and greater sinfulness.”

- f. God's blessings & curses has a biblical history of being “grouped”
 - i. Read **Genesis 18 (Sodom)**
 - ii. Read **Joshua 7:1-26 (Achan's & his family)**
 - iii. All the Jews left Egypt... even though many were unfaithful
 - iv. Conversely... read the following...

g. 1 Corinthians 15:22 = “...in Adam, ALL die...”

- i. Note the connection to the biblical Adam & biblical Jesus...
- ii. No biblical Adam... no need for biblical Jesus...
- iii. No effectual “Garden” - no effectual cross!
- iv. How important is it to trust in biblical authority???
- v. Those who deny Adam's reality deny Christ's remedy!
 - 1. You can't have One without the other...

B. DEATH entered the world thru SIN (12b) = Adam's sin brought death”

- a. Adam & Eve were not created as mortal beings...
- b. They would have lived indefinitely, perfectly in harmony with God had they not sinned (Genesis 2:17)
- c. However, God had ordained from before time began that the wages for sin would be death...
 - i. **Romans 6:23 = “for the wages of sin is death”**
 - ii. **Ezekiel 18:4 = For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.**
 - 1. Read Ephesians 2:1-2 = “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.”
 - 2. Read Ephesians 4:18 = “They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.”
 - a. **You can be alive to this world...**
 - b. **Yet dead to the things of God!**
 - c. 3 kinds of death:
 - i. Spiritual - prevents fruit of the Spirit...
 - ii. Physical - ends opportunity to be saved
 - iii. Eternal - torturous separation from God

Revelation 21:8 = *“But the cowards, unbelievers, vile, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars—their share will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”*

- d. BUT... by contrast... BELIEVERS NEED NOT FEAR ANY DEATH!
 - i. Last week we saw that you are eternally secure in Jesus...
 - ii. Physical death brings the believer to Jesus in heaven...
 - iii. **Hebrews 2:14-15** = *“through His death He destroyed the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil... & **set free** those **who were held in slavery all their lives** by the fear of death.”*

C. **Death SPREAD to all men, because ALL SINNED (v.12c)** = *“ so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.”*

- a. This is the part that many say makes this passage “difficult”
- b. Part of the reason is that Paul does not give a lot of “how” answers
- c. Hence, our need for faith...
- d. Remember: biblical faith says: God said it, that settles it!
- e. Sin is in our DNA... we, as sons/daughters of Adam have a sin nature!
 - i. **Psalm 51:5** = *“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity; And in sin my mother conceived me.”*
 - ii. **Jeremiah 17:9** = *“The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”*
- f. Even if that doesn't bring “intellectual satisfaction” - it is true!
- g. Truth is its own proof!
- h. **Habakkuk 3:17-19** = *“Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exalt in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord GOD is my strength!”*

D. **Death WINS the WORLD... (v.13-14)** = *“ Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. 14 Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey*

an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a type/symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.

- a. Sadly, world history proves that death has won the world...
- b. Every human being except Enoch & Elijah have gone into their eternity through death...
- c. Sin is in the worlds DNA & Death has won the world...
- d. Paul makes the point that sin arrived long before the Law...
 - i. ALL people die... even those before the Law
 - ii. Thus, sin/death is in humanity's DNA - not just from the Law
 - iii. Death before Law; therefore, proves... sin before Law
- e. All of what Paul has said is based on the example and role of Adam...
 - i. Adam is called a "type/symbol" of Jesus
 - ii. Recognizing this literary tool is key to understanding...

Explain "biblical typology"

VIDEO: "Old Testament Shadows"

- f. "In regard to the principle of human solidarity, Adam was a "type" or "shadow" of Jesus Christ. That truth becomes Paul's transition to the glorious gospel of salvation from sin and death that God offers fallen mankind thru His beloved Son... "Him who was to come."

II. Contrasting Adam's Condemning vs Christ's Redeeming...

Illustration: Teaching thru "antithesis"

- A. **Contrasting EFFECTIVENESS (v.15) = "But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ."**

- i. God's free "grace gift" vs. Adam's sin transgression

- ii. God's grace is greater than man's sin!
- iii. **Qt:** *"Christ is much more powerful to save than Adam was to destroy."* - **John Calvin**
- iv. Many Puritans used to stress the contrast this way...
 - a. Sin's affect can be broken (salvation)
 - b. While salvation is eternally secure!

B. Contrasting EXTENT (v.16) = *"And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins."*

- i. Note two key truths:
 - a. God hates sin so much that it only took 1 sin to condemn humanity & separate us from God...
 - b. God loves sinners more than He hates sin
 - c. Read **2 Corinthians 5:19** = *"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."*

C. Contrasting EFFICIENCY (v.17) = *"For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ."*

"Efficiency" = capacity to produce a desired result...

Adam & Eve's sin goal was to be like God

Their sin produced the opposite result

Sin is always eternally inefficient!

Christ's sacrificial death defines "efficiency"

Read 2 Cor. 5:17 & 21 = “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Read John 10:10 = I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, & have it to the full.”

Read Romans 6:17-18 = But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.”

Read 1 Corinthians 15:57 = “...thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

D. Contrasting ESSENCE (v.18-19) = “Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. 19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.”

Summary of Adam/Jesus analogy found in vv.18-19

This does NOT teach universalism

You must read in full context... (grammar)

Other verses clearly deny universalism

The boiled down essence of Paul’s point/contrast is:

Sin = Adam disobeyed God the Father

Sin leads to death!

Righteousness = Jesus obeyed His Father

Read **Philippians 2:8**

Righteousness brings life!

“He justifies the ungodly” - **Rom. 4:5**

He is the “just & Justifier” - **Rom. 3:26**

Qt: “My sin, O the bliss of this glorious thought... My sin, not in part but in whole... Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more... It is well, IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

E. Contrasting ENERGY (vv.20-21) = “God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. 21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The energizing force behind man’s sin is the Law

- a. The Law points out sin
 - b. The Law does not create sin
 - c. Consequently, the Law does not damn...
 - d. Sin damns...
 - e. The Law also points to the Savior
 - f. The Law never saves
 - g. Consequently, obedience does not save...
 - h. Grace thru faith in Jesus saves! (always)
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- ii. The Law was a “pattern” not “means” to righteousness
 - iii. The Law helps sinners see their sins...
 - iv. So that they can come to Christ & be saved from sin
 - v. No matter how big the mess (personally or across humanity), our Messiah is bigger!

Close:

1 Corinthians 15:45 = “...it is written: ‘The first man Adam became a living being... the last Adam (JESUS the Christ), a life-giving spirit.’”

Paul is making the point in chapters 4 & 5 that no one, nor any thing, can earn God’s righteousness on their own, or be denied an opportunity to receive God’s righteousness because of sin...

No religion, ritual, resume, or self-righteousness can take the place of biblical faith in Jesus, the Christ. And at the same time, no sin nor combination of sins can stop God's justifying gift of grace from redeeming all who trust, and believe biblically in THE gospel of Jesus, the Christ!

THE gospel of Jesus, the "GOOD NEWS" of Jesus, the Christ... is not only the message of this passage... it's the overarching theme of Romans. In fact, the GOSPEL of JESUS, THE CHRIST is the STORYLINE of the entire BIBLE!

VIDEO: "Jesus throughout the Bible"

1 Corinthians 15:22 = "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

AMEN!

Let's Pray Together...