

THE TRUE AND BETTER ADAM

ROMANS 5:12-21

Main Idea: Adam brought death, but Christ Jesus brings life.

Key Text: Romans 5:12-19

In the colonial schools in New England, they used a wonderful educational tool called THE NEW ENGLAND PRIMER as their textbook to help the children to learn to read and write, etc. In teaching the alphabet a brief rhyme would be given to help the children remember each letter. For the letter "A" they learned this:

A. IN ADAM'S FALL WE SINNED ALL.

Thus the young children were being drilled and taught the truth of Romans 5:12.

B. HEAVEN TO FIND, THE BIBLE MIND.

How many children in schools today are taught about heaven?

C. CHRIST CRUCIFIED, FOR SINNERS DIED.

The cross had a central place in their education!

D. THE DELUGE DROWNED, THE EARTH AROUND.

How many children in school today are taught about the world-wide flood in the days of Noah?

In Adam all sinned. It is also true that in Adam all were created. Strictly speaking, people living today were not created. We came into the world by procreation, not by creation. The only people who were ever created were Adam and Eve. However, there is a sense in which it is correct to say that I was created in Adam. Apart from Adam I would have no existence. When Adam was created, I was in the "loins" of Adam (cf. Heb. 7:10). I was part of "his seed."

Why is it true that I SINNED IN ADAM, I DIED IN ADAM, I AM CONDEMNED IN ADAM? I was not even there when it happened, or was I? Consider the following:

"So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven." 1 Corinthians 15:45-47

Both of the men mentioned in Romans 5-Adam & Jesus Christ - affected the entire world by their actions.

The doctrine of the two Adams is unfolded in the latter part of Romans chapter 5. A detailed study of these verses follows:

Romans 5:12 (Introduction)

In Romans 1-3 we learn about man's **CONDEMNATION** before a holy God.

In Romans 3-5 we learn about **JUSTIFICATION** (man being declared righteous by God based on the cross-work of Christ & according to the riches of God's grace).

In Romans 5:12-21 we have **CONDEMNATION and JUSTIFICATION** compared & contrasted.

Note the words of **COMPARISON**: "AS . . . (EVEN) so . . ." (Rom. 5:18,19,21). Note the words of **CONTRAST**: "NOT AS" (Rom. 5:15,16); "MUCH MORE" (Rom. 5:15,17,20).

Notice the **TWO ACTS**: Adam's act of disobedience when he ate the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6); Christ's act of obedience when He died on the cross (Phil.2:8). See Romans 5:18-19.

Notice the **awesome consequences**: Romans 5:17-19.

Notice the **TWO RESULTS**: Because of what Adam did: DEATH, JUDGMENT, and CONDEMNATION. Because of what Christ did: LIFE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, and GRACE.

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— ¹³ for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

1. The 1st Adam SINNED. The Second Adam was SINLESS.

Adam, the first human God created chose to disobey God, bringing sin into the world. This sinful nature is passed down to all humans; so we are still impacted by his sin.

Verse 12 lays it out:

Adam sinned – Sin was brought into the world – Death came as a result of sin – Now everyone sins – Everyone will die.

Original sin: the sinful nature and desire to sin that all people are born with.

Because of Adam, we are born into a sinful world with a sinful nature. But that is not the end of the story. Christ came to set us free from sin!

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2Cor 5:21

Jesus Christ was the Messiah that God would send to save mankind from sin.

2. The 1st Adam brought DEATH. The 2nd Adam brings LIFE. (vv14-17)

¹⁴ 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.

*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. 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. 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.*

The previous verses show that everyone sins. Here we see that everyone dies. It was true in the beginning...it is still true today.

One sin brought death into the world and one gift brings life.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

What is the gift verses 15-17 speak of? Eternal Life

3. The First Adam STARTED the problem. The Second Adam SOLVES the problem. (vv. 18-19)

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. 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.

Adams one act of sin changed the course of history. No longer would man have the relationship with God that Adam had in the Garden of Eden. But the Messiah was sent to save us and restore our relationship with God.

4. The First Adam brought CONDEMNATION - being guilty before God. The Second Adam brings JUSTIFICATION - being declared innocent by God. Just as if I never sinned.

Adam's sin resulted in sin entering the world, being kicked out of the Garden, infecting the world with death, and separating us from God.

Yet, God sent forth His Son, Jesus, to set things right...to restore us to himself...

Through His sinless life, His death upon the cross, and by the power of His resurrection from the dead, our relationship can be restored.

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Cor 15:22

Conclusion: We have 2 representatives. We are LOST IN ADAM...or we ARE SAVED IN CHRIST. You were born into Adam's Inheritance. You must be born gain to receive that of Christ.

| ADAM - The first man Adam (1 Cor.15:45) | JESUS CHRIST - The last Adam (1 Cor.15:45) |
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| Adam was a representative man (Romans 5), and he acted on behalf of the whole human race. | Christ was a representative man (Romans 5), and He acted on behalf of the whole human race. |
| Adam performed one act which had tremendous consequences. | Christ performed one act which had even greater consequences. |
| Adam's act was a sinful act (Rom.5:12, 15,16,17,18). | Christ's act was a righteous act (Rom.5:18). |
| Adam's act was an act of disobedience, in eating the forbidden fruit (Rom.5:19; and see Genesis 2:17; 3:6). | Christ's act was an act of obedience, in dying on the cross (Romans 5:19 and see Phil.2:8). |
| The One Act of ADAM Produced: DEATH (Rom.5:12,14,15) JUDGMENT (Rom.5:16,18) CONDEMNATION (Rom.5:16,18) | The One Act of JESUS Produced: LIFE (Rom.5:17,18,21) THE FREE GIFT (Rom.5:15,16,17,18) GRACE (Rom.5:15,17,20,21) JUSTIFICATION (Rom.5:16,18,19) RIGHTEOUSNESS (Rom.5:17,19,21) REIGNING (Rom.5:17; compare verse.21) |