

## SALT Church

Romans 5:12-17

### *“God’s Gracious Gift”*

October 5, 2025

### **“The Greatest Book Ever Written”**

**David and Cindy**

#### Recap:

- Here are some of the key verses from last week.

#### Romans 5:3

**<sup>3</sup>We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance.**

- I asked the questions:
  - Who among us celebrates when the doctor calls with the bad news?
  - Who rejoices when our car breaks down and there no money in the savings account for repairs?
  - Who says thank you for the pain of losing someone that you love?
- **I’ll tell you who!**
  - Those who have **survived previous trials** and tribulations.
  - Those who **clung to Jesus** when their whole world was collapsing, and their enemies were attacking.

- Those **who cried out to the Lord** and He guided them through the storm of losing someone that they were absolutely sure they could never live without

***This is maturity in Christ***, and it does not come any other way.

***Romans 5:4***

***4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation.***

***I reminded you of Lazarus' story in John 11?***

- Lazarus had to go through the process of dying.
- Mary and Martha had to go through the process of watching their brother die.
- They were not rejoicing when they went through that process because their faith had not endured through such a difficult thing.
- Their hearts did rejoice when Lazarus walked out of that tomb.

***We pondered this:***

- What was it like for Lazarus the next time that he died?
  - Do you think for one second that there was fear?
    - No!!!!!!
      - He longed to die again for he knew what waited on him.
      - Therefore, he had confident hope when death came again, he rejoiced because he knew what awaited him.

## ***Romans 5:6***

***6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.***

- I reminded you,
- God is in the business of rescuing the helpless.
- This why the gospel is so important.
- It must be spoken and lived out.
- Christians should be the most hopeful, most optimistic people on the planet because we know that this is not it!
- *In short, we have found something worth dying for*
  - *Someone worth living for!!!!*

## ***Today's text:***

### ***Romans 5:12-17***

***12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.***

### ***Ponder this:***

- For several weeks we have been talking about the faith of Abraham.
- We have heard Paul say, "Abraham was credited with righteousness because he believed."
  - Abraham was credited with righteousness because of his faith
    - He believed what God said.

## ***What was Adam's sin?***

- If you say, "he ate the fruit" you would be wrong.
  - The fact that he ate the fruit was the result of his sin.

- **His sin was that he did not believe God,** for God had said that if you eat of the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil you will surely die.

The sinful nature was born in man in that moment.

- One of the most ironic results of that moment is this truth:
  - ***Men die because they did not believe God***
  - ***In today's world, men die because they do believe God.***

***Let me ask you a very important question:***

- Is it fair that God would impose Adam's sin on all of the human race?

**Let me ask it another way:**

- Wouldn't it have been better for God to impose His judgement on men individually?
  - The answer is no and here is why.

The angels that rebelled against God have received their due judgement.

- They with a full understanding of God, His throne, His glory and splendor made the decision to be ***willfully disobedient***.
  - Each one of them made the decision to walk away from the most wonderful relationship known to any creature.
    - Therefore, their sin was individual requiring an individual sacrifice for atonement.
      - Scripture says that a 1/3 of the angels rebelled against God.

- 1/3 of an enumerial amount of angels, meaning that there are so many that you could not count them in a single lifetime.

**For us, (meaning the human race) who came from Adam our experience is very different.**

- Our rebellious nature is something that we were born with and not something we chose.
  - This sin nature come as natural as breathing whereas the persuit of holiness is a choice.
- God the Father knows our predicament and knew our predicament long before Adam sinned.
  - The solution for the human race was and is a perfect sacrifice that has the power to break the bondage of sin for those who believe.
  - **The solution to the problem of sin was developed in Heaven by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.**
    - Jesus would come to earth in human form.
    - He would live a perfect and sinless life to the glory of the Father.
    - The Holy Spirit would confirm the truth that He spoke through many, many miracles.
    - Jesus would, offer His perfect life as the perfect sacrifice for the sinful human race that had been born into sin.
      - Now, man would be called to make a dicision concerning the Lord, just like the angels.

- Only this time the decision would not be to walk away but rather to walk towards the Lord.

So, is it fair that God imposed sin upon the human race because Adam sinned?

- It doesn't seem fair but I am so glad He did.
- For it is in this act that it was made possible for one man (Jesus Christ) to remove the judgement for the sin of one man that was passed down to the human race.

### Back to Romans 5:13

Verse 13 cost me a whole day.

***<sup>13</sup> 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.***

- This sentence caused me to pause.
  - It made me pause because this question has been thrown at me more than once.
    - “If someone has never heard the gospel, never read the Bible, and has no idea about sin, how can God sentence them to Hell?”
- So, how do you sin before you know what sin is?
  - Or how do you break a law that doesn't exist?

**I think the question is wrong.**

- A better question is, did the law exist before it was given to man?

- The answer is obvious because people have been dying ever since Adam sinned.
  - And we can also assume that people died not because they sinned but because of the sin that was passed down to them through Adam.

**• What in the world Pastor?**

***Cool your jets and allow me to explain:***

- Do you agree with the following?
  - The wages of sin is death
  - All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
    - Unborn babies and babies could not possibly sin because they are babies.
      - Yet they die.
        - Why?
          - The wages of sin is death.
            - Meaning they die because of the sin that was passed down from Adam to them.

***Now, what does this tell us?***

- It tells us that the law (sin = death) existed long before the law was given to man.
  - Adam had been warned that the moment he ate from the tree that death would surely come.
    - Why?
      - Because he had rebelled against the Holy God.

- He did not believe what God said.
  - This rebellion was passed down to every single human being.
- Logic screams to the top of its lungs that sin causes death.
  - Therefore, the law of (sin = death) existed prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> act of sin was ever committed.
    - Who committed the 1<sup>st</sup> act of rebellion and sin?
      - Satan

### **Now allow me to bring something to your attention:**

- Jesus had a very important theological conversation with a man name Nicodemus.

Nicodemus wanted to know how a man could enter Heaven. (Have eternal life)

### **John 3:1-8**

**3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”**

**<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”**

- **I love Jesus and how He communicates.**
  - He doesn't have time for the pleasantries and moves straight to what has brought Nicodemus to Him in the middle of the night.



- Nicodemus wants to know how can anyone enter into the Kingdom of God.
  - Jesus says, “They must be born again”
    - What does that mean?
      - It means you were born one way (sinful) and now you must be born again in a holy and different way.

### **The conversation continues:**

**4 “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”**

**5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water (the 1<sup>st</sup> birth, meaning born of their mother) and the Spirit. (the 2<sup>nd</sup> birth born of the Holy Spirit, therefore becoming a new creation) 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh (mothers give birth to children), but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. (The Holy Spirit gives birth to the spirit that died when Adam sinned) 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”**

### ***Now, we return to the original question of fairness.***

- Is it fair that God would impose the penalty of Adam’s sin on all of the human race?

- Yes, like it or not we pass down many things to every generation and let's be honest we don't question fairness upon the "goodness" that is passed down.
  - Why, because it is good.
    - We only question the fairness of the bad and the difficult.

### ***Ponder this:***

**Is it fair that the perfect Son of God**, completely sinless in every way, Lord of Lords, King of kings, be put to a shameful death on a cross by the very people that He came to save?

- The answer is No!

The fact is that we think we want fair, but the truth is that we absolutely do not want fair.

- Fair would be the judgement of God upon me for my sins.
- Fair would be no blessings, no love, no grace, no mercy, no hope.
- Fair would be eternal separation and suffering away from God the Father.

### ***Can you see why I lost a whole day to one sentence?***

So, the unwritten and ungiven law was in effect and the evidence of this is found in the deaths of people for over 2,000 years prior to the Law of Moses.

- This is what Paul is drawing our attention too.

### *Back to Romans 5:14*

***<sup>14</sup> 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.***

- Meaning there were a few commands that God had given to Noah and his family moving forward from the flood:

### **Genesis 9:3-6**

***<sup>3</sup> Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. <sup>4</sup> “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. <sup>5</sup> And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. <sup>6</sup> “Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.***

There is somewhere between 800 – 900 years between Noah and Moses.

- Meaning roughly 800-900 years from these commands to Noah and the Law.

So, Paul brings to our attention that people still died even if they had kept the commands given to Noah and his family.

***<sup>14</sup> 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 symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.*

- *What does that mean?*

- Listen as Paul explains through the power of the Holy Spirit.

*<sup>15</sup> 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.*

- The very 1<sup>st</sup> prophecy found in the Bible is in Genesis 3 in which God promises that the seed of the woman will crush the head of the great serpent Satan.
- Jesus is the fulfilment of that prophecy.
- He came as the seed of man. Meaning He was born as a child and became flesh.
- Adam passed down the great penalty of death.
- Jesus passed down the gift of grace, mercy, and forgiveness to those who have been called, those who believe.
- Therefore, Jesus' gift is greater for He has overcome sin, Satan, and death.

Paul continues:

*<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.*

These last two verses are a great place to close:

- Verse 16 ***For Adam's sin led to condemnation***
  - The scripture is very clear, if Jesus Christ is not Lord over your life, meaning:
    - If every decision you make isn't filtered through His Lordship over your life you are lost and a child of Satan.
      - ***But I can't get it right everytime Pastor!***
        - I know and this is where God's grace and mercy ***move in*** but you must understand that if you can live in active ***willful disobedience without conviction and reapeptence*** you need to ask yourself if Jesus really is Lord over your life.
    - If Jesus is not Lord over your life the Bible is clear, you are not a child of God.
      - Even the thief on the cross called Jesus Lord, meaning the small amount of time he had left he submitted to the Lordship of Christ.

*but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.*

- **What a beautiful piece of scripture!**

- Christians are not perfect and we do sin.
  - The difference is two-fold
    - We have been made right with God through the blood of Jesus Christ
    - The other is, **we are quick to confess and repent.**
      - We run to Jesus when we sin not from Jesus when we sin.
      - We confess because we know He is right.
      - We repent (**turn away**) because we know that we followed sin we have turned away from Christ.
        - This is why we can't live in active, willful, disobedience.

***<sup>17</sup>For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many.***

- Did you hear what The Holy Spirit said through Paul?
  - “rule over many” most people will not submit to the Lordship of Christ.
  - This is a sad indictment on humanity.
    - There will be more people in Hell than in Heaven.
      - This is the saddest thought any man could have.

***But praise be to God that it does not end there:***

***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.***

- Because of God's grace, mercy, and love the child of God has been credited with righteousness.
- In this righteousness we have victory over sin and death through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Closing thought:

- Paul makes a big deal about this issue of death before the law because he wants us to understand that Jesus is not a tribal deity.
  - Meaning, Jesus did not come to die just for the Jews.
  - Abraham was saved before the Law was penned.
  - Sin existed before Abraham and God was crediting righteousness before the Jews existed.
    - Meaning, Jesus has died for all that placed their faith, hope, and trust.
      - In short, Jesus is Lord and Savior over all.

Today we celebrate this victory by the taking of the Lord's supper.