

INTRO: videos games w/ friends, can't beat level;
Working on our cars in college, call out for my friend's dad
Many of us have temptation/struggle, where freq fail
Trials/struggle to find rest, contentment, and life.

[Prop: Through the cross Jesus passed the test that Adam and every human fails, and bore the condemnation of our failures to bring us back into covenant with God.]

Jesus succeeded where Adam & WE! failed.

I. We have all failed to obey God. Humans are covenant breakers.

-Covenant is the reason Paul can say **v. 12, 18-19**
-belong to Adam get Adam stuff: death, sin, condemnation
-belong to Christ get Christ stuff: life & righteousness

APOL: Not fair? - families impact children, representatives' impact those they lead - bizarre world; w/o covenant you lose JC's blessings

A. Defining Covenant

-the backbone of the story of the Bible are the covenants

Q. 22. What is a covenant?

A. An agreement between two or more persons.

"A covenant relation is one in which two parties are permanently pledged to each other in mutual service and dependence." J.I. Packer Knowing God

-parties (God & man), the promises/blessings, commands, curse,

B. God's Covenant with Adam

1. The Covenant of Works/Adam/Creation

-the "one man" is Adam (name=man), and Paul is recalling **Gen 1-3**

-**Gen 1-2** - God made & set Adam and Eve in the garden
-Adam was given dominion, living at peace with God & Creation

- **blessing:** mandate (**Gen 1:28**) -provision of all their needs (**2:16**), perfect fellowship with God (**3:8**)
- **command:** do not eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil (**2:17a**)
- **curse:** in the day you eat of it you shall surely die (**2:17b**)

ILLUS: woman walking down the aisle in white dress = wedding

C. Adam fails the test, and broke the covenant

-the Serpent/Satan came and tempted, and Adam failed the test
-broken covenant between humans and God (**Hos 6:7**)
-**"sin came into the world through one man"** (**Rom 5:12**)
-**"many were made sinners"** (**Rom 5:19a**)

-Paul's use of "sin" - malevolent force

ILL: Thom. Bost., "I would have no friends in Scotland if men knew my inmost thoughts".

APP: go to Dr no use pretend only one thing wrong

-God drove the man and woman out of the garden (**Gen 3:12**)
-and he placed two cherubim (angelic beings) w/flaming swords
'death through sin' (Rom 5:12) 'condemnation for all men' (5:18a)

APP: In Adam we have inherited sin, death, and condemnation **AND**
-**Rom 5:12** – we all relive this sin through pride, self-love, and idolatry
– we're outside garden, alienated from God, under covenant curse
-need someone to get us back in

D. God's covenant of Grace with Abraham

-but Adam's failure was not the end - **Gen 3:15** - proto-gospel
-in **Gen 12:3** God calls Abram/Abraham and makes a covenant with him promising "in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"
-covenant not based on Abraham's obedience, but faith in God's promise

-Israel proves to be rebellious & idolatrous forfeit COV bc no FAITH
-by end of **OT** looking for one faithful Israelite who can remove the curse of these broken covenants, *and fulfill the obedience required!*
ILLUST: Start business to feed family – fails – start new to pay debts – fail at that too. Now need money to pay off debts, and money to eat!

II. Jesus succeeded where Adam & We failed.

-he is faithful to God's covenant

Rom 5:18-19: *...so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.... so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.*

-Jesus is righteous and obedient to his Father's plan

A. Jesus is the New Adam

-God will bless the whole earth thru Jesus ONE faithful Israelite

-Paul uses this language also in **1 Cor 15:22**,

-but Gospel writers also show Jesus is the New Adam

Hints in Matthew & Mark - but Luke Especially

Luke 3:38 - inserts genealogy between baptism & tempt. "Adam"

-point of temptations Jesus kept obeying God the rest of his life, even to death on a cross (**Luke 4:18**)

-**Heb 2:17-18** – like us in every way but without sin

B. Jesus tells us he came to establish the New Covenant with God

1 Cor 11:25, Luke 22:20

-words of institution

-New Covenant: forgiveness, regeneration, Spirit

-take & eat vs took & ate

III. Jesus secured all that Adam lost - and more.

A. His obedient life and death deals with the covenant curse

-one act of eating from the Tree is a sign of Adam's obedience/dis

-so the cross becomes the "one act of righteousness"

-kept the Law perfectly and he paid the penalty of the broken Law

-through faith we joined to Christ and his covenant

-**2 Cor 5:21** - forgiveness AND righteousness

ILL: In covenant of marriage what is mine becomes ours.

B. His death secures life and righteousness

-Rom 5:18-19. ¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to *justification and life for all men.* ¹⁹For as by the [Adam's] disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the [Christ's] obedience *the many will be made righteous.*

1. In Covenant w/ Christ - justification/righteousness-

-in COV with Adam we are condemned, under death

-only by faith not works can we be transferred from the covenant of Adam to the Covenant of Christ.

-not by our obedience but "by the obedience of Christ" many made right.

-we stand in the right, we are counted keepers (not breakers) of COV

ILLUS: Aced the test, blew the curve, but gave us his grade.

APP: obedience from security vs. obedience as performance

2. In Covenant w/ Christ life

-Adam forfeited eternal life w/ God when he rebelled, & brought death

-he lost the garden and took everyone else with him

-Christ chose death in order that he might give us life with God in the Garden-City, the New Jerusalem in the New Creation.

Rom 5:16 – "free gift" – all you can do is receive, but you must receive

ILL: Leon Morris story of little boy at Church festival

APP: As we face the trials & temptations of life, and seek to obey God we must remember—Jesus already passed the test, he conquered sin, his righteousness is counted as mine by faith – and following him leads to eternal life.

Jesus succeeded where Adam & WE! failed.Amen.