

Romans 5:12-21
For the week of January 22, 2023

Reflection

1. What were some of the takeaways, for you, from Sunday's sermon?

2. Were there questions, comments, concerns...?

Paul enters a detailed (and difficult) comparison of Adam and Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 15:22, 45–49). In dealing with the first man, he is concerned not so much with the creation of Adam as with his first sin and the calamitous consequences that followed. All mankind is affected by what Adam did. Over against that Paul sets the saving work of Christ. Just as Adam was the head of a race of sinners, so Christ is the head of a new race, the redeemed people of God.¹

Observation (vs. 12-14)

3. Summarize these verses.

Interpretation

4. How did we inherit sin through Adam?

5. How do you interpret verse 13?

6. Compare verse 14 with I Corinthians 15:22, 45-49.

¹ Leon Morris, [*The Epistle to the Romans*](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 227–228.

Application

7. Take a moment to think about sin(s) that you justify in your life (i.e. lying to spare another's feelings). What are some ways to break the justification of sin through Christ justifying us in righteousness?

Observation (vs. 15-16)

8. What are these verses saying?

Interpretation

9. Look at and note the fourfold contrast between the gift and sin.

10. How many times does Paul refer to the "free gift" in these verses? Define "free gift".

Application

11. Write a personal praise to God for His free gift.

Observation (vs. 17)

12. Summarize this verse.

Interpretation

13. What are the outcomes described in this verse?

Application

14. "The abundance of grace" shows that God gives more than what is needed. Some translations and commentaries use "overflowing, generously". How do you respond to this overwhelming gift of grace?

Observation (vs. 18-19)

15. What is Paul saying here?

Interpretation

16. How do you interpret "disobedience" and "obedience" in light of these verses?

Application

17. How are you encouraged to continue in obedience to Christ?

Observation (vs. 20-21)

18. Write these verses in your own words.

Interpretation

19. Why do think Paul uses the word "reign" in his descriptions of sin and righteousness?

Application

20. Take a moment to meditate on and then respond to, "where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."