

## We Are Triumphant

---

### Lesson 6

I am not a big Star Wars fan (to the dismay of many of my friends), but I do appreciate many of its themes. Mike Bird points out that one of the major story lines in Star Wars illustrates something of this text, which focuses on the disobedience of Adam and the obedience of Christ, or as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:45, the "first man Adam" and the "last Adam."

Star Wars features a tale of two Skywalkers. The first Skywalker (Anakin Skywalker) faced the temptation to give in to "the dark side" of the Force. And he did give in to it. Death, destruction, and chaos followed.

In contrast, the second Skywalker (Luke Skywalker) faced the same temptation. But Luke was faithful and obedient to the Jedi vocation. Consequently, hope, life, and the triumph of good followed. In fact, Luke was able to redeem the first Skywalker, his evil father Anakin. Filmmaker George Lucas said that the entire Star Wars saga—or at least the first two trilogies was concerned with the redemption of Anakin Skywalker.

Similarly, you could say that the entire story line of the Bible is about the redemption of Adam by the last Adam, Christ Jesus. Whereas Star Wars is fiction, Romans 5 is teaching us about the true story of the whole world. Our passage begins with the first man, Adam, and moves to the work of Christ, and it includes the future reign of Christ; we go from creation to new creation. Having focused in on our personal salvation in Romans 5:1-11, Paul switches to a wide-angle lens and puts our salvation within the grand story of redemption.

This is a relevant text because it speaks to every human who has ever lived. And it is a wonderfully encouraging text because it points us to Christ's triumph over sin and death and reminds believers of our security in him.

Schreiner in his commentary on Romans states, Adam and Christ are the two most influential individuals in human history, and believers can take confidence because they belong to one who has overturned all that Adam introduced into the world.

Adam and Christ are not merely two historical figures; they are also two representative figures. Adam is the head of a race of sinners: all of us. Christ is the head of a new race of redeemed people: all those who trust in him.

1. The Conflict (5:12-14)
2. The Contrasts (5:15-19)
  - a. Trespass and gift (5:15)
  - b. Condemnation and justification (5:16)
  - c. Death and life (5:17)
  - d. Disobedience and obedience (5:18-19)
3. The Conclusion: Christ Has Overcome! (5:20-21)