

Romans: Unashamed; the righteous shall live by faith

Romans 5:12–21 prt 16

MPS: We are either dead in Adam or alive in Christ.

INTRO

- Prayer night this weds at 630pm – food and fellowship included.

OPEN

David and Goliath – representative warfare

1 Samuel 17:10 (ESV) 10 *And the Philistine said, “I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together.”*

1 Samuel 17:26 (ESV) 26 *And David said to the men who stood by him, “What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?”*

1 Samuel 17:43 (ESV) 43 *And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods.*

1 Samuel 17:45 (ESV) 45 *Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.*

- Who won the battle? David is the obvious answer, but that’s not the complete answer.
- Saul won too, so did Jonathan, so did every man who was too fearful to fight Goliath.
- This was known as representative warfare.
 - Israel and David were one;
 - Goliath and the Philistines were one.
- Because Goliath died in the battle, many of the philistines died because of their oneness with Goliath – their representative.
- Because David won the battle, Israel won because of their oneness with David – their representative.
- Note the repetition the word "one" throughout Romans 5:12-19.
 - It is used 12 times.
 - Paul is emphasizing our identification with Adam and/or with Christ.

- Paul's argument in Rom 5:12-21 is that we are one with either the first man Adam – our representative (as the Philistines were one with Goliath)
- OR one with the second/last Adam, Jesus Christ. (the way Israel was one with David)

We are either dead in Adam or alive in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:22 (ESV) 22 *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

1. The Conflict - Adam's fall introduced sin and death into the world. (The contrasts, the conclusion)

12 *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—*

Genesis 3:1–7 (ESV) 1 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2* *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3* *but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.' "* **4** *But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5* *For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 6* *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7* *Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

"sin invaded the world. It does not mean that sin began its existence at that time in the Garden of Eden. Paul says sin entered, not that it began to be. Sin already existed as a result of Satan's rebellion. This text speaks of sin's inaugural entry into the world of humanity. Sin, therefore, is portrayed as an intruder. It was not a constituent element in the original creation." Sam Storms

Death in Scripture is three-fold:

- (a) Spiritual death (the alienation of the soul from God and the subsequent spiritual corruption of the whole person; cf. Eph. 2:1–2);
- (b) Physical death; and
- (c) the Second death (which is the perpetuation of spiritual death into eternity; eternal separation and alienation from God; cf. Rev. 2, 20).

Views of original sin

- Pelagianism - The teachings associated with Pelagius, a British monk who taught in Rome in the late 4th and early 5th centuries AD. Pelagianism taught that people are capable of avoiding sin and choosing to live righteous lives even apart from God's grace.

Pelagius rejected the ideas of original sin and predestination. He believed that people were not inherently sinful and that they were able to live holy lives in accordance with God's will and merit salvation by good works.

- This view says that Adam merely *set a bad example* which we have unwisely followed. We each individually re-enact Adam's transgression in our own experience.
- Seminalism or Realism – We were present in Adam when he sinned and are subsequently guilty of sinning because we were there. Another version of this is that we inherited the sin nature of Adam – that it was passed down to us like our parents' DNA is passed to us.
- Reign of death - "As a result of Adam's sin death entered the world and engulfed all people; all people enter the world alienated from God and spiritually dead by virtue of Adam's sin. By virtue of entering the world in the state of death (i.e., separated from God), all human beings sin.... Our alienation and separation from God are due to Adam's sin, and thus we sin as a result of being born into the world separated from God's life" Tom Shcriener.
- Federalism or Covenant representation - Adam served in the capacity as covenant head of the human race – in other words, he is our representation. David fighting Goliath would be a good example of representative status – 'he wins, we win – he loses, we lose'
- Before objecting to the doctrine of covenant or representative headship, remember this: ***only if Adam represents you in the Garden can Jesus represent you on Golgotha.***
- It was on the cross that Jesus served as your representative head: his obedience to the law, his righteousness, his suffering the penalty of the law, were all the acts of a covenant head acting in the stead and on behalf of his people.
- **If Adam stood for you in the garden, Christ may also hang for you on the cross.**
- If you insist on standing your own probation before God, instead of submitting to the covenant representation of Adam, you must also stand on your own in regard to righteousness. And how do you think you will fare? In other words, if you fall individually and by your own doing, you must be saved individually and by your own doing.
- The conflict is that you and I are born into sin – even before you commit any personal sin. And sin has spread death to all mankind... spiritual death.
- No way around is being born in Adam.

13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. **14** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

- Jews believed that there could be no death or sin apart from the law
- His point is simply that sin committed before the Mosaic law is not *technically* reckoned as sin.
- In other words, “there was not a technical register of sin; sin was present, just like heat and cold are present whether we have a thermometer or not. But one could not, in a sense, *measure* sin before the giving of the law”.
- A type is a person, place, or event that foreshadows or symbolizes another.
- Type – The good news is that Christ has come to overcome the effects of sin...

Adam as "a type of the One to come" is the subject of the following section..
Adam points forward to Christ.

2. The Contrasts – what Adam lost, Christ has restored

- The major emphasis is not on Adam’s failure (Paul is assuming people know about that) but on Christ’s triumph over sin and death
 - Sparkling diamonds shine brighter when black velvet is the background. So it is with the gospel of God’s grace – it shines bright on the background of sin.
- a. The contrast of trespass and gift

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

- Define trespass – (to fall, an offense, crossing a line that causes a fall – sin. grace vs guilt)

Ephesians 1:7 (ESV) 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

Colossians 2:13 (ESV) 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

- Many doesn't equal all will be saved (universalism) BUT all who receive the free gift! (vs 17)
- b. The contrast of condemnation and justification

16 *And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.*

- Condemnation is a divine guilty verdict carrying the judgment of spiritual and the second death.
- Adam's one sin is enough for you to receive a judgment of the second death plus Your own sins are too! Just one of them.
 - We've gone from the prison to the palace.
 - From the sewer to the mansion
 - From death to life

c. The contrast of death and life

17 *For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*

- There are two primary Gk words for 'LIFE' – Bios and Zoe. Bios has to do with existence, but the word "life" here is the GK word Zoe which has to do with the quality of life not merely the existence of life.
- And it goes beyond just life (bios) which is merely surviving. Receiving the free gift makes us go from surviving to thriving
- Look at the diamond sparkle!

d. The contrast of disobedience and obedience

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

- Paul contrasts the work of Christ and the work of Adam.
 - But they are not equal in power. Christ is supreme!
 - In Jesus Christ we have gained much more than we ever lost in Adam!

3. The Conclusion – Christ has overcome

20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

- As if the trespass wasn't bad enough without the law of Moses – now it's worse because it is spelled out, magnified, made clear, measured. BUT that made grace all the more potent.
- The law didn't bring relief from the sin problem; it made it worse!

21 so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Luke 22:39–46 (ESV) **39** And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. **40** And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." **41** And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, **42** saying, "**Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.**" **43** And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. **44** And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. **45** And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, **46** and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

- Jesus is the true and better Adam who passed the test in the garden and whose obedience is imputed to us (1 Cor 15).

Will you receive the free gift?

- You receive a new nature via the holy spirit given to you
- You receive life that overcomes death
- You receive a better representative that loves you and invites you to his table.
- The greater Adam and the greater David loves you very much!

1 Corinthians 15:22 (ESV) **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

QUESTIONS FROM GROUPS:

1. Even if you could refrain from sin, or do more good than bad, you are still considered a trespasser and sinner because of Adam. How does that make you feel?

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2. Now, in Christ you have a greater representative who has restored more than Adam lost and Paul calls it a free gift to you. How does that make you feel?