

## Jesus is Better

### ❖ **My Goal is to Simplify a possibly very confusing passage in the Bible...**

- Not that what Paul is actually saying is confusing...
  - Rather... it is how He says it, or has to say it to make his point...
    - That makes it confusing as you read it..
- **So, I am going to approach these verses a little different today...**
  - I am going to just try to give you a clear and simple explanation of them
  - Then instead of word by word and verse by verse...
  - **We will just handle these verses as a whole...**
    - Because... Paul says the same thing over and over in different ways...
    - Bringing a little more info in every verse, yet, still repeating similar things...
- **But first... step back and listen to a true story about a man...**
  - Whose sin affected his children in a terrible way

### ❖ **Story of a Sin Spreading Man**

- There was a man born many years ago...
  - He had a very unique relationship with God
  - He was given great gifts by God... and he knew they were from God
  - He was also given certain instructions by God
  - He was told to follow the instructions God had laid out for him...
- **The man loved God, but he also struggled with God's instructions...**
  - So, in a moment of weakness and temptations...
  - He broke God's instructions, and it really hurt his relationship with God
  - God took away many of the great gifts He had given the man...
- **God had warned this man that there would be consequences to breaking His instructions...**
  - There would be terrible consequences...
- **It wasn't too long after this man broke God's instruction that God gave him another gift...**
  - He gave him a son... Then God gave him another son...
  - The man and his wife were very happy...
- **Their happiness would not last long... because the man's offense would come back to haunt him...**
  - As a result of this man's wrong doing... his first son became very jealous of his brother...
  - And one day in his anger and jealousy, he struck down his brother and killed him...
  - The Father and Mother were extremely distraught...
  - And their oldest son had to leave them and go far away
- **They had many sons and many daughters moving forward...**
  - And the consequences of this one man's breaking of God's instruction would continue to haunt him
- **He would watch as many of his children and children's children would do terrible things...**
  - They were filled with all sorts of evil thoughts...
  - Evil intentions... Evil actions...
  - They would take the sin of their father and multiply it continually...
- **More Sons and Daughters would be born...**
  - Some would get drunk and pass out...
  - Some would kill anyone that stood in their way...
  - Others would rape and kidnap innocent victims
- **In all of this God was seeking the children born to this man... and the children's children**
  - Still, even those whom God called, they too were already filled with many sins...
  - Sins they would continue in... Even the best of them would lie and steal
- **One of them deceived his father and stole his brother's birthright**

- He had 12 children...
- His children lied to him and said their brother had been killed by a wild animal...
- But they had actually sold him into slavery because they were jealous
- **Some of the First Man's descendants would enslave their fellow men**
  - They would put them to hard labor They would treat them unfairly
- **Some of the descendants would try to rule over their brothers and sisters**
  - Some would claim to be God himself
  - They would expect people to worship them...
- **The sin of the First Father passed down and multiplied to all of his children...**
  - None were born without sins affect on them...
- **Therefore... as a consequence of this one man's disobedience...**
  - God handed down a judgment of death...
  - So all men would die... Even the babies...
  - The sin of the First Father... would affect even little babies that would sometimes die...
- **This man helped bring about every terrible suffering known to man**
  - From lying to torture to cursings to death...
  - Even to idol worship... Many people would forget the God that their Father knew...
  - They would make up their own gods and bow down and worship them
- **When the true God would send them warnings... they would ignore Him...**
  - God would send them His messengers
  - And often they would kill God's messengers...
  - The First Man's Sin had invaded every single person to ever be born...
  - And the end result was death upon death...
  - But God decided to do something about it... He even planned it before the first Man...
- **God would Send a Second Man...**
  - He would be like the first man, but different...
  - God would send a man that would be obedient...
  - God would send a man to walk in all of His ways...
  - God would send a man who would be righteous all of His days...
- **God would send His Son... who would be like Him in every way...**
  - His son would be God in human flesh...
  - And He would come and teach man about their maker...
  - He would come to reverse the curse that came through the first man's sin...
- **So the second man came**
  - He followed all of God's commands... every one of them...
  - He never strayed to the right or the left... He taught men about God
  - He tried to turn them away from sin and back toward God...
- **But, many of the sons of the first man hated the second man... the son...**
  - So they conspired against Him to have Him killed.
  - They made false accusations against Him so he would be executed...
- **In all of this... they were falling right into the plan of God...**
  - God did not send this second man, his Son... simply to be an example to people...
  - He did not send Him to only offer wise advice or to heal people...
  - He sent His son to reverse the affects of the curse placed on man
  - When the first man disobeyed God...
- **The Son had to die...**
  - God could not overlook the sins of all the men... including the first man...
  - God sent His Son to make it right... But the only way to make it right...
  - **Would be to live and be a perfect man...**

- And then... He would have to give up His life
- He would have to take the punishment for the other men...
- **So, the sons of the first man... took the second man...**
  - And they executed Him... they shed His perfect blood...
  - And in the death of the Son... life was offered to men...
  - To all men, life was them offered...
  - Their disobedience had been paid for
- **Even though death came through the first man...**
  - And it continued... and sin increased... and death never stopped...
  - The second man brought a way out... a new start...
- **The second man... offered up His life for many... and in so doing...**
  - He made them right with God...
  - If they would only receive the free gift of grace that He would offer
  - To all who believed on Him...
- **The first man made many sin and die**
  - The second man made many righteous and have Life...
- **This is what is in mind here in these verses as we study them today...**
  - Follow along with me if you would....

READ: Romans 5:12-21

#### ❖ Intro:

- **Romans is A Very Jesus Filled Book...**
  - Constantly heading back to Christ...
  - There is a constant flow from who we are in our sin...
  - And what God has done for us in Jesus Christ
- **Paul opened the book of Romans with that great verse...**
  - Romans 1:16 <sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- **And we see... that is what this whole book is about... the gospel...**
  - And Paul spends a lot of time explaining how the gospel works...
  - **Especially stopping and explaining how**
    - We are made righteous in God's eyes by faith and not works...
    - Because right after he says what he says about the gospel...
    - He tells us about faith... and righteousness... and we see it is tied to the gospel
    - Romans 1:17 <sup>17</sup> For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."
      - ◆ So... after making sure his readers understood that all people stand in judgment
      - ◆ All peoples have sinned... Paul explains the great Doctrine
        - Justification by Faith....
- **And here in chapter 5... Paul is bringing his argument to a climax...**
  - Then He is going to get a little more practical... He is going to help us understand
  - Our battle with sin... And our position with God... And how we are to walk in the Spirit
- **But for today... Justification by Faith is still in view here**
  - And today... He is focusing on the difference b/w Adam and Jesus...
  - And He is making a point of the parallels b/w Adam and Jesus...
  - But also the differences...

## ❖ A Comparison and Contrast is Made in these Verses

### ➤ Adam vs Jesus

- **Romans 5:14b Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.**
- **Paul is making the point that Christ is similar to Adam, yet much better...**
  - He uses Adam to show how his actions affected mankind...
- **He does this to show how it is with Jesus...**
  - Just like Adam... Jesus actions would affect mankind...
  - Adam in a negative way, Jesus in a positive way...
  - Both of them though... Have made a huge impact on mankind...
  - **And the good news is that...**
    - ◆ The negative qualities of Adam's actions...
    - ◆ Have been trumped by those of Jesus Christ...
      - The comparisons continue in this text...

### ➤ Result of Sin vs Free Gift

- **Romans 5:15 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.**
  - ◆ The free gift is the grace of God in the gospel that produces righteousness
- **The free gift is not like Adam's Sin...**
  - ◆ Many died because of that sin...
- **The free gift on the other hand... gives us something greater...**
  - ◆ The free gift by that one man Jesus...
    - Has abounded for many...
- **What has abounded for many... it it's the free gift...**
  - ◆ Free Gift is in Abundance... overflowing... plentiful...
  - ◆ And it is enough for you today...
    - Enough to overcome your sin nature... to overcome your past...
    - To free you from death

### ➤ Obedience vs Disobedience

- **Romans 5:19<sup>19</sup> 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.**
- **Adam was Disobedient to God... Jesus was obedient...**
  - The disobedience of Adam made many to be sinners...
  - The obedience of Jesus will result in many being made righteous...
- **Jesus was perfect in all of His ways... in everything He did He honored God...**
  - From within the heart to his outward actions... Jesus was perfect...
  - The man who betray him said...
    - ◆ **Matthew 27:4 "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."**
  - **Hebrews 4:15 one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.**
- **Jesus was obedient even unto death as Paul reminds us in Philippians...**
  - Jesus did not just go without sin...
  - He also acted in obedience by giving up His own life...
  - Laying down His wants... for our needs...
- **Adam had everything in the garden... filled with comfort...**
  - And it was not enough for him and his wife...
  - They wanted more... so they sinned...
- **Jesus came having no place to lay his head...**

- And He obeyed God perfectly even unto death...

### ➤ Sin vs Righteousness

- **Romans 5:18** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.
  - One Trespass... or sin... brought condemnation...
  - One act of righteousness brought life for all men...
- **Notice here:** An Act of Sin vs and Act of Righteousness...
  - Good wins the day here... Sin would not win
- **Sin led to something terrible...**
  - But Jesus Righteous Act led to men being made right with God...

### ➤ Condemnation vs Justification

- **Romans 5:16b** For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.
  - Judgment for sin brings Condemnation
  - Free Gift brings Justification
- **Condemnation is a legal declaration of guilt...**
  - The person's sin has caused them to be declared guilty
  - Justification is the opposite
- **Justification is a legal declaration that one is right**
  - The person is legally declared to be right in the eyes of God
- **Romans 5:18** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.
  - So... One sin brought... And one act of Righteousness made men right with God

### ➤ Sinners vs Righteous

- **Romans 5:19** <sup>19</sup> 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.
  - Disobedience made men sinners... Obedience made men righteous
- **Notice the comparison here...**
  - It is a comparison of nature...
- **On one hand we have been made to be a sinner...**
  - A person who misses the mark of God...
- **On the other hand we are made righteous**
  - We are made to be saints of God... His holy ones...

### ➤ Death vs Life

- **Romans 5:12** 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
  - Death came through the sin of one man...
    - Sin brought death... And death spread... it spread to all men because all sinned...
- **Romans 5:21** <sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
  - Again... sin reigned in death... Grace reigns in Life
- **Grace is our unearned favor of God on our lives...**
  - And this grace comes through Jesus righteousness...
- **This grace through righteousness... leads to eternal life...**
  - And then... we are reminded...
    - ◆ eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **Adam brought Death... Jesus Brought Eternal Life**

## ❖ Sinners by Nature of Our Relationship to Adam

- Death has reigned in all men... because in Adam we have all sinned
- **Adam's sin is imputed to all who came after Adam...**
  - Or let me say... it was passed down... Even before a person could sin...
  - They were born with a sin nature...
- **We know this because death still affects those who have not sinned like Adam...**
  - Sometimes babies die... they would not die if they were not affected by sin
- **Also... Paul makes this point as well...**
  - **Romans 5:13-14 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam**
    - Now, Paul may mean a bunch of things here that I won't get into...
    - The point He is making... is that once Adam sinned...
    - Death still reigned in every person
- **Another reason I can confidently say we are born into sin...**
  - Is because of the parallel made to being righteous if we are made alive in Jesus

## ❖ Righteous by Nature of our Relationship to Jesus

- just as Adam's sin is imputed to us because we were in him,
- so Christ's righteousness is imputed to us because we are in him.
- This is what Paul means in verse 18...
  - **"So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men."**
  - In Adam we are all condemned... In Christ we are made Righteous
- Adam's sin was put on our account
- Jesus righteousness is put on our Account
  - **1 Corinthians 15:22 <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.**

## ❖ Conclusion

- **We do not receive eternal life because we take up oxygen...**
  - Or because we are born... or because we are people...
  - We must be born again... Born a new... Born of the Spirit...
- **Paul starts chapter 5 by telling us how we gain access to what Jesus has done**
  - **Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**
    - Made right by FAITH... given Peace with God through Jesus
    - Access to grace by FAITH... And we Stand... and we rejoice in the Hope of the glory of God!