
Wednesday GEL Group Online

With this being our first time together after the Easter weekend, it is timely and good to study what Paul has written in Romans 5:12-21. As we will see, Paul seems to assume his readers know all about Adam and how his sin brought sin and death to humanity. These well-known facts are used by Paul to get what the actual point of these verses are about. That is, Christ is like Adam in that what he did affects all people. But, unlike Adam, who brought death, Christ brings life. All who belong to Christ can be confident that they are under the 'reign' of grace, which brings eternal life. The power of Christ's obedience to overcome Adam's act of disobedience is the great theme of this study tonight.

Let's pray and then read Romans 5:12-21

1. The key building block of these verses is 'just as ... so also.' Let's identify what are the themes of Paul's building block is when he writes 'just' and 'so also' in this passage. Have a look at the passage again and see how Paul achieves this.
2. What did the fall of Adam introduce into the world? (Genesis 2:17) (Romans 1:18-19; 3:8-23)
3. What are the consequences for humanity described in 13-14?
4. How does Paul contrast Adam and Jesus Christ in verse 15-17?
5. What does God provide for humanity in verse 17?
6. What does Paul highlight as the consequences of God's gift of grace in verses 18-19?
7. How does Paul conclude this point in verses 20-21?

8. Do you think the idea that something Adam did thousands of years ago can determine our eternal destiny is one that most modern people find difficult to understand or even abhorrent?

9. Do you also find it intriguing that Paul makes no mention of the role of Eve or Satan here in his letter? What do you think is the purpose or the key of Paul's comparison in his writing here?

10. What are your thoughts on the idea of 'original sin'?

11. There are certainly lots of different views on this. The basic premise of Paul's writing here is the reality of sin and death. Basic to the Christian worldview is a view of humanity as inherently bent away from God, with all the tragedy that comes from this sinful condition. Christianity at least offers at this point a succinct and convincing explanation for human misery and hatred which all of us see in the world around us. Paul claims here in Romans 5:12-21 that only Christ makes life possible for every person. As Christ sets people free from sin and lays the foundation for their new life. For this to become real, a person must accept the offer of freedom and pardon from sin's penalty. Let's conclude by reading another part of Paul's writing about this from 1 Corinthians 15:12-28.

12. Let's pray together