

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART II

Sermon Title: Week 2, Life Conquers Death!

Principal Scripture: Romans 5:12-21

Date: July 29, 2018

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### † Escaping the family curse

- **Illustration story- young person haunted by past of his family**
  - **Disease, physical impairment**
  - **Bad reputation- some ancestor did something horrible**
  - **Stories of weakness, failure,**
  - **Debt, poverty**
- **It's not fair, no fault of your own that you were born into this family, but you were. No matter how hard you try, just can't seem to escape the family curse.**
- **CONTINUING in Romans (encourage you to catch up! Do study guide)... LAST WEEK, first half of Chapter 5... "STAND IN GRACE"... "not just justified, but RECONCILED"... "HOW MUCH MORE, having been reconciled, shall we be SAVED through Christ's LIFE.**
- **NOW, 2<sup>nd</sup> half of chapter 5, Paul gives us an illustration to demonstrate JUST HOW BIG, significant, the change in our reality is because we have entered, by faith in Christ, into a relationship with God.**
- **The example he uses is one we can relate to, but for the first century readers, this was an issue they didn't just relate to, but one that defined their very identity on a daily basis.**
- **THE ISSUE OF FAMILY. The profound impact of what was handed to us through the family line into which we were born.**
- **SPIRITUAL REALITY... two families we can belong to. The first is our natural family, unavoidable. We are all born into it. The second is an adoptive family, and it is available to all, but potential.**
- **FIRST FAMILY... Line with the family curse. ADAM**

### † Our first family- the line of ADAM

**Romans 5:12-14** *Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—<sup>13</sup> To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.*

- **HUGE reality! Biblical worldview- Adam as spiritual ancestor of humanity, and when Adam chose to disobey God, SIN- rebellion against God and all its effects- entered into the world. AND the sin that Adam brought in opened the door for the greater curse, DEATH. Death came to all people, because ALL SINNED. WHAT DOES "ALL SINNED" mean?**
- **WHOSE SIN is Paul talking about. The sin of Adam, or the sin of everyone who would follow Adam?**

### Whose sin?

- **TWO WAYS this is seen**
- **Most direct to the text- ALL HUMANITY came to bear the consequence of SIN, WHEN ADAM SINNED. LINEAGE- spiritually, if not physically, the entire human race was IN ADAM, because we all would come from him- and thus the corruption, the death, that sin brought to his soul is passed down to all his descendants- thus we are born into this world spiritually dead and under the consequence of sin.**
- **Another understanding is that because Adam died spiritually, we have inherited this spiritual death, and we are all born spiritually dead, and separated from God. BECAUSE the core attribute of spiritual death is that we look to ourselves as God, instead of God, we are born with an inescapable predisposition to turn against God- to sin- ourselves. WHEN WE DO THIS, which we inevitably will, we sin, and we come to bear the consequence of sin.**

– **Then Paul says something really interesting...**

<sup>13</sup> *To be sure, sin was in the world before the law (**Mosaic**) was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.*

- **For the Jewish believers in the church, their entire concept of sin was failure to keep the law. The law said “do not covet”, and if you coveted, that was sin- because the law said not to do it. But what about all the people who lived before the law was given?**
- **From time of Adam up to the time of Moses (law, ten commandments, etc), sin was in the world. People rebelled against God- horribly! Whole story of Noah. HOWEVER, the people who lived during this time, they would not be held accountable before God for breaking the rules of the Mosaic law that they didn't know existed.**
- **It almost seems like Paul is saying that ignorance of the law IS an excuse. But this isn't the point! HIS POINT- crucial- is that SIN isn't just a matter of breaking a rule. It is the attitude/position of our heart to GOD. THE TRUE AND FATAL problem of sin, that every human has always shared in common, whether we have any knowledge of Biblical morality, is that we are born into this world SPIRITUALLY DEAD.**

**The inheritance we received at birth: DEATH**

<sup>14</sup> *Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.*

- **Adam disobeyed the specific command of God. Paul says, “even if we didn't disobey God's specific commands from his law”, we still are under the same curse, because DEATH has come to all of us. Physical death, but more importantly, spiritual death. The RESULT OF SPIRITUAL DEATH is that we only look to ourselves as God, for wisdom... we determine ourselves what is best, what is right, what I want... and the result is human history of selfishness, pride, fear.... You name it. DEATH REIGNED. HISTORY!**
- **As fallen human beings, our biggest problem isn't that we have broken any specific religious or moral rule... our biggest problem is that we are spiritually dead. THUS, our greatest need as human's isn't forgiveness... it is LIFE.**
- **THIS IS WHERE PAUL IS LEADING US... The miraculous alternative, the hope that God introduced IN CHRIST, the hope of leaving the family line of adam, and being adopted, by faith, into a NEW FAMILY- the family line of JESUS.**

**† A New Family- the line of JESUS**

- **Paul just said “adam was pattern of one to come”**
- **Jesus and Adam BOTH are heads of a family. They BOTH defined their families by what they DID. In Adams case, it was a TRESPASS. Disobedience. In the case of Christ however, it was a GIFT.**

**In Romans 5:15-19, Paul contrasts the results of Adam's TRESPASS with the results of Jesus' GIFT.**

<sup>15</sup> *But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!* <sup>16</sup> *Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.* <sup>17</sup> *For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!*

<sup>18</sup> *Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.* <sup>19</sup> *For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

- **CHURCH! God is calling us here to consider, to comprehend, the MUCH MORE of what is True of us IN CHRIST. We haven't just been forgiven, we have been given an ENTIRELY new family, a new name, a new identity, and new past, and a new future.**

IN ADAM	IN CHRIST
Result of the trespass	Result of the Gift

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**DEATH** came to many      **GRACE** overflowed to many

*<sup>15</sup> But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!*

Judgement followed **ONE** sin    The gift followed **MANY** sins

*<sup>16</sup> Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.*

**CONDEMNATION**      **JUSTIFICATION**

Death is **INHERITED**      Grace/Righteousness is **RECEIVED**

*<sup>17</sup> For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!*

**DEATH** reigns      **LIFE** reigns

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**Sin and condemnation**      **Life and Righteousness**

- **In Adam, the curse of the human race, there is sin, and the ultimate result of sin, condemnation.**
- **IN CHRIST, BY FAITH, apart from the law, we have been forgiven, justified, reconciled, but EVEN MORE, we have been given LIFE, and as people who have been brought from death to life, we now share in God's RIGHTEOUSNESS. AS WE UNDERSTAND THIS, THIS IS LIFE CHANGING!! All around us we see the result of death... BUT IN CHRIST...**

✠ **Life conquers Death!**

**Romans 5:20-21** <sup>20</sup> The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. **(magnified, made fully aware)** But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**1 Corinthians 15:22 (I blew the reference in the program!)**

*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

- **THIS IS OUR HOPE. And it is a HOPE that has the power to impact our lives every day. HOW?? How do we ESCAPE ADAM?**

✠ **Escaping Adam**

**1 Corinthians 15:48-49** *As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.* <sup>49</sup> *And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.*

- **The image of the earthly man is that we are fallen, ultimately, death. HOW do we move... NOW... from being children of adam, and BEING SET FREE to live in the hope, joy, peace, love, fullness.... As children of CHRIST?**
- **STORY... Child in ancient Rome. Born into a low class, poor, family debt, ugly ancestry. NO WAY OF ESCAPE... UNLESS... you are adopted. New name. New past. New future. You changed your family tree.**
- **SO MANY PEOPLE fighting so hard to overcome, to escape Adam, on our own. We try everything to change our behavior, we change the way we look, we educate ourselves, we try to find freedom and meaning through different social circles, religions, activities, money, YOU NAME IT. It doesn't matter, the heritage of EMPTINESS INSIDE, slavery to self... it doesn't change. There is only one hope of being set free... ADOPTION. BY FAITH, receive Christ's invitation to leave behind the family of men, and step into the family of God. FROM FIRST STEP, BEGIN TO FOLLOW, BEGIN TO LEARN what it means to walk in faith... to walk in union with Christ, who loves us and gave himself FOR US.**
- **This is what we celebrate in Communion... TAKE MY BODY, it is for you... TAKE MY BLOOD... a new covenant, a new way... IT IS FOR YOU.**

TODAY, as we receive communion, how are we still hanging on to that old family tree of Adam. How are we still being held bondage by the sin.... As we remember the cross, bring this to Jesus, agreeing with him to follow him into whatever is necessary for you to be set free.