

Romans 5:12-21

Adam's Mistake - Jesus' Remedy

This portion of Romans portrays the stark contrast between the awfulness of Adam's disobedience and the greatness of Christ's obedience. Adam's fall brought condemnation to all men. Christ's sacrifice offers reconciliation to all men. This section also provides a deeper revelation of the word "sin." Note: All that is included in association with Romans 5:12-21 in *The Foundational Truths of Romans 1-8* (the introductory course associated with this series) is presented here along with additional input. The review, coupled with the new information, should enhance our understanding of this vital portion of God's letter to man.

Before going further turn to the Reference Section located in the back. Nine circle diagrams are provided. If you find it more convenient, make copies for easy reference. The written material may become easier to comprehend when used along side the diagrams.

The content of the next few paragraphs may be initially confusing but becomes extremely palatable as we progress.

In Romans 5:12, we find:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned —
(Romans 5:12)

To properly interpret the phrase, "...through one man sin entered into the world...", we must take into account that Satan, the personification of sin, was present in "the world" prior to Adam's sin. Consequently, the phrase "...through one man sin entered into the world..." must mean, "...through one man sin entered into man." Adam was the "man," for God instructed him to abstain from partaking of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" in Genesis 2:17. Should he partake of the tree, he would "die" instantly in the spiritual sense (Genesis 2:17) and later in the physical sense—it was as simple as that. He ate of the tree in Genesis 3:6 and experienced immediate spiritual death, a death that points to separation rather than extinction. Why separation rather than extinction? "God is Spirit" (John 4:24), and Adam's sin separated him from God in the spiritual sense. His physical death came much later, for a son was born to Adam in Genesis 4 after his sinning in Genesis 3, meaning that he remained very much alive physically after his disobedience. Thus, "sin entered into the world," that is, "entered into" man, resulting in spiritual separation from God. Note: Genesis 3:7 verifies that this spiritual death did not prevent Adam from recognizing his spiritual nakedness, confirming that the depraved can comprehend their need for a Savior, exercise personal repentance and faith, and experience God's salvation.

Adam and Eve's one act of disobedience caused them to lose their dominion over the earth, which was granted by God in Genesis 1:24-31:

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind"; and it

was so. And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (Genesis 1:24-31)

Satan ruled over the earth once Adam and Eve disobeyed. Thus, Paul refers to Satan as the small "g" "god of this world" (2Corinthians 4:4):

in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2Corinthians 4:4)

Don't misunderstand. Satan is a defeated foe to the New Testament believer due to Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. However, he remains our enemy and "accuser" based on Revelation 12:10:

"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. (Revelation 12:10)

Because Satan despises all believers (all mankind, in fact), he seeks "someone to devour":

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1Peter 5:8)

We as believers are to "resist him, firm in" our "faith":

But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. (1Peter 5:9)

In Romans 5:12-8:39, Paul vividly describes how Satan can be resisted. Expect our “*adversary*” (Satan—1Peter 5:8) to unleash his arsenal of weaponry against us as God’s Word exposes him and his schemes. Remember: Our enemy is nothing more than “*a roaring lion*” (1Peter 5:8) that has lost his bite; for the cross, resurrection, and ascension DE-toothed him.

With the above input in mind, let’s take a moment to discuss the ramifications of being born into a world controlled by Satan’s system—the world system. Terms are introduced here that will be discussed in greater detail later; so don’t become discouraged should understanding be lacking. Understanding will surface as we progress.

When Adam sinned, his spiritual death (separation from God) brought about a change of nature. In fact, his nature became such that sin became natural. Stated differently, Adam’s sin and change of nature made him love sin. Prior to his sin, disobedience was unnatural. After his sin, sin (for Adam) was as natural as breathing.

You and I (all mankind) are born in the condition that existed within Adam after Adam sinned. We were born with a bent to sin. We loved sin due to our sinful nature inherited from Adam. Having lacked wisdom (Proverbs 9:10), we listened to Satan’s lies and obeyed Satan’s promptings—naturally. As a result, we were programmed for failure, programming which occurred in our brains. Yes, like a computer, we were programmed by our enemy—an enemy who desires to destroy us. The fact that this programming was not erased when we met Jesus makes the remainder of this study extremely captivating. Hold on as we allow God’s Word to expose our enemy and set us free from his ever-present schemes. Romans 5:12 will be our beginning point.

The word “*sin*” in Romans 5:12, being a noun, can point to something other than man’s acts of sin. In fact, it refers to a power called “*sin*”:

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—
(Romans 5:12)