

Much More, Then

Part 2

Romans 5:15-20



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FOCAL Read Responsively **Romans 5:15-20** But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. **16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification.** 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) **18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.** 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. **20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: 21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**^{KJV}

Prayer Permit us, dearest Father, to come very near to You. Draw us by Your Spirit, focus our minds upon Your precious Word, dearest Lord, that we might feed upon its great Truths. We bless You Lord for this Word. Through it's preaching we came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as our very own Savior. There was a time in our lives when we thought little of Him, or of You. There was a time when we, like all the children of Adam, wallowed in selfishness and sin, seeking whatever pleasure we could find. Yet You were patient

with us, calling us, wooing us, and now we know You as our own. How we love You, dearest Lord. How we praise You for the boundless love You have shown to us in reaching out and saving us. Reveal more of Thyself this night through this Word. If there be any here who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as we do, break the heart and turn it unto Thee. If there be any children of Yours who have fallen away under the devices of Satan we beg You, dearest Savior, draw them back from the pigpen of this present evil age to Thy bosom, O God. Draw all who will come. Open our eyes so that we may see wondrous things from thy Word. In Christ's Precious Name we pray and ask these things. Amen.

This morning we discussed the first two of the five “**Much More**” statements in Romans chapter five. Let's look at the remaining three **much more** statements. These statements are all *contrasts* – they compare the work of Adam with the work of Christ.

Contrast #1: Adam Brought Death On All, Christ Offers Life To All

Focal Romans 5:15-16 But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For **if through the offense of one many be dead, much more** the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus

1 G4183, πολῦς, πολλός, polus polos, *pol-oos'*, Including the forms from the alternate “*pollos*”; (singular) *much* (in any respect) or (plural) *many*; neuter (singular) as adverb *largely*; neuter (plural) as adverb or noun *often*, *mostly*, *largely*: - abundant, + altogether, common, + far (passed, spent), (+ be of a) great (age, deal, -ly, while), long, many, much, oft (-en [-times]), plenteous, sore, straitly. Compare G4118, G4119. + G3123, μᾶλλον, mallon, *mal'-lon*, Neuter of the comparative of the same as G3122; (adverb) *more* (in a greater degree) or *rather*: - + better, X far, (the) more (and more), (so) much (the more), rather.

Christ, hath abounded unto many. {16} And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification.

The first point of contrast is between the **work of Adam** and the **work of Christ**. The **work of Adam**, a work that was apart from the Word of God, *brought the offense*. That word **offense**² means a **side slip or a fall**.

God placed Adam in the middle of a Garden full of luscious fruit, an infinite variety of things to eat and do. Man should have been happy with this, but the one thing he was restricted from taking (the tree of the knowledge of good and evil), this he wanted. God established a **Covenant of works** with Adam in **Genesis 2:16-17**

Genesis 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: (17) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: **for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**

The pact made between God and man in the Garden is known as the Edenic Covenant or the **Covenant of Eden**. This was a *conditional covenant* in that God told Adam, “**In the day that you eat that which is forbidden, in dying thou shalt die**”. John Gill states:

“he was immediately arraigned, tried, and condemned

2 G3900, παράπτωμα, paraptōma, *par-ap'-to-mah*, From G3895; a *side slip* (*lapse* or *deviation*), that is, (unintentional) *error* or (wilful) *transgression*: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass.

to death, was found guilty of it, and became obnoxious to it, and death at once began to work in him; sin sowed the seeds of it in his body, and a train of miseries, afflictions, and diseases, began to appear, which at length issued in death. Moreover, a spiritual or moral death immediately ensued; he lost his original righteousness, in which he was created; the image of God in him was deformed; the powers and faculties of his soul were corrupted, and he became dead in sins and trespasses³”

The work of Adam brought spiritual death on all. In another Scripture we read:

1 Corinthians 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Adam as the *Federal Head* of creation brought sin on all, and with sin came spiritual death. **Dying thou shalt surely die.** Every work that man would do following Adam's work would be tainted by sin. The Scripture says of all people:

Psalms 14:3 "They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Psalms 53:3 "Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

Romans 3:12 "They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."

God's judgment on mankind was **none doeth good**. The root was rotted, the tree corrupt. The work of Adam brought with it spoilage, stench, sin, lust, and every evil work. Even those who had a semblance of morality, who followed the leading of conscience, were still spiritually dead in the sight of God. A corpse can do no work suitable for the living, and a spiritual corpse can do no work suitable for the Living God to bless. This work of Adam was devastating.

Focal **Romans 5:15-16 But not as the offense, so also is the free gift. For if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.** {16} **And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification.**

Yet the work of Christ was **much more**. Though Adam impacted creation for the bad – and effected all creation by his poor choice – Jesus Christ redeemed all creation by His sacrificial offering. The statement begins with **not as the offense, so also is the free gift** to emphasize that there are differences between the *results* of the two works. Jesus' work is offered (but not naturally) to all, but *must be believed* in order to be valid. The New

Testament preaching of the Gospel is:

Acts 16:31 And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**

Adam's sin brought *universal death* on all of his progeny. Jesus' obedience offers *eternal life* to all who will believe on Him. As our focal text states:

Focal Romans 5:16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for **the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification.**

The judgment rendered against Adam by God brought condemnation on all of creation. The judgment rendered by God to the work of Jesus Christ **brought justification** to all who believe. **By Grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8).** Our salvation is based on what Christ did for us. It is not

Calvary
+
My Works

Salvation

It is **Sola Christos**, Christ alone! He alone stood as our Federal Head, undoing the work of Adam. What a Savior we have!

Contrast #2, The Practical Outworking of Adam Compared To Christ

Focal Romans 5:17-19 For if by one man's offense death reigned by one; **much more** they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) {18} Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. {19} For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

There is a *practical outworking* of the Biblical Doctrine of Justification. In our day and age there are many who profess to be Christian who *do not live for Jesus*. Practically and Biblically this cannot be true – and the Apostle proves this by this **much more** contrast.

Focal Romans 5:17 For **if by one man's offense death reigned by one; much more** they which receive **abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)**

The Bible has established that Adam's sin brought *universal death on all creation*. **Death reigned by one**. The word **reigned**⁴ is a Greek word which means **to rule as king**. From the time of the Fall of Adam even until now the death that Adam brought on creation **ruled over**

⁴ Aorist Active Indicative of 936 basileuo bas-il-yoo'-o, from 935; to rule (literally or figuratively):-king, reign.

all as king. Man has a sin nature and bows his knee to that nature. The drunkard drinks not because he cannot help it, but because his king commands and he must obey. The *practical outworking* of Adam's wrong was that *death and darkness rules in the lives of his progeny*. The Apostle says “since this is true, is it not **much more true** that those who have been given **abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ**”. Are you a Christian? Do you profess to know the Lord of Glory by faith? Then:

Romans 6:12-14 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. {13} Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. {14} **For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.**

You, dear Christian, are alive from the dead. You are no longer a son of Adam, but you are a **son of God by faith in Christ**. God is now in you – you abhor sin, you do not delight in it. The Scripture says:

1 John 3:8-10 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might

destroy the works of the devil. {9} Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. {10} In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Sin reigned over us when we were the sons of Adam – sin no longer reigns over us as children of God. We do not have to bend the knee to evil as we did before. We are to **reign in life by one, Jesus Christ**.

Song FAITH IS THE VICTORY

Focal Romans 5:18 **Therefore as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

Again a contrast. Adam's sin brought the judgment of God **upon all men to condemnation**. The unsaved man is condemned *now*, the lost person is hellbound *now*. They are **dead in trespasses and sins**. Yet the saved person, the person who has **believed on the Lord Jesus Christ** has received **justification of life**. Having been declared righteous by God because of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are raised and supernaturally empowered to walk in newness of life. This is repeated in a slightly different way one more time:

Focal Romans 5:19 For **as by one man's**

disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Adam's sin caused **many to be made sinners**. This is a real and provable fact as we see so much sin around us. The sinner acts like a sinner because the sinner is *spiritually dead*. If you stay around a spiritually dead person long enough in time – though they may be outwardly moral and upright – sin will manifest itself. Like the Pharisees of old their righteousness is but a sham. As Jesus said:

Matthew 23:27-28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. {28} Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

The Scribes and Pharisees appeared to be righteous, but their righteousness was but a sham. They had a man-made righteousness, not the *righteousness that is by faith in Christ*. The righteousness of faith permeates even unto the heart of man, changing the person from the inside out. Those saved in Christ are new creatures, no longer sons of Adam but now sons of God – and they walk as such! **Under Adam many were made sinners. Under Christ many are made righteous.**

Contrast #3, The Law and Grace

Focal Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did **much more** abound:

The Law of God was given so that **the offense might abound**. What does this mean? God gave the Law to an unbelieving people to lead them to Christ. The Law exists to **show us our sin**, to make us realize we must be saved or else all is lost.

Galatians 3:24-26 “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. {25} But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. {26} For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

The Law exists to point us to another standard.

Years ago the American dollar was on a “gold standard” - something I think was a good thing. You couldn't print more dollars than you had gold in the U.S. Mint. Every dollar was backed by a dollar's worth of gold.

If you are a Christian your life is backed by something greater than gold. Your life is backed by and endorsed by Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior. You will enter Heaven one day because that Savior stands behind you, representing you before Almighty God. This Savior is now part of your life. As the Scripture says:

Romans 8:9-12 But **ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.** 10 And if **Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.** 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, **we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.**

If we are saved, we are saved because we have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. He has established a personal and intimate relationship with us, living through us. We are not under the reign of spiritual death as are all of Adam's children, but we are under the kingship of God our Savior. We are on a gold standard that cannot be beat! May God lead you to an ever deepening understanding of this great Spiritual truth!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED