

“The Second Adam”

Romans 5:12-21

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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Teaching Aim: To illustrate how death spread to all people because of the first Adam’s sin in the Garden. To recognize eternal life will be given only to those who put their trust in the Second Adam, Jesus Christ. To realize Adam is a “*type*” (or Old Testament foreshadow) of Jesus in the sense that his actions had an effect on the eternal destiny of all people. To understand the only way for anyone to be saved is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by the works that we do.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses (Rom. 4:12-14)

1. Once again, the word “*therefore*” introduces a conclusion in **verse 12**, what is it? **Verses 10-11** plainly teach us that reconciliation with God is found in the cross of Jesus Christ. What does **verse 12** teach us about those who are in Adam? Is physical death natural to this creation or did it come only after “*original sin*?” People often get mad at God over the death of a loved one, but who (*or what*) should we really be mad at?

2. “*Federal Theology*” teaches that Adam was the “*representative head*” of the entire human race. As such, Adam was the perfect representative for each of us and was handpicked by God to represent us. In what sense are elected officials our representative heads today? Do we sometimes suffer the consequences for their decisions? Do you see God’s choice of Adam in representing us as fair or unfair? What do you think you would have done in the Garden if you were there long enough?

3. What is the meaning of the theological term “*original sin*?” What are some of the negative consequences that we face today because of Adam’s sin? At what point does a person become a sinner? (See **Psalm 51:5**) What made “*the virgin birth*” of Christ so important to our salvation today? (See **Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23**)

4. Alongside the law comes the concept of transgression (**vs. 13**). What does the word “*transgression*” mean? (See Dictionary) Why would there be no transgression if there were no law?

5. Although “*the law*” didn’t come until the time of Moses, what happened to every human being from the time of Adam to the time of Moses with the lone exception of Enoch (**vs. 14**)? (See **Gen. 5:18-23**) What future event could Enoch possibly be a picture of? (See **1 Cor. 15:51-53**) Whose poor decision led to the death of every human being who has ever lived, with the only exceptions being Enoch and Elijah? Do our decisions still have consequences today? Have you ever wondered if Adam was saved or lost? What does **Gen. 3:21** seem to indicate?

6. “A *type*” is an Old Testament foreshadow of something to be fulfilled in the New Testament. In what way is Adam a type of Christ (**vs. 14**)? In its truest sense, a type is only a type when it is identified as such in the New Testament. Does Adam meet this qualification according to **verse 14**? Where do the names for Christ “*The Second Adam*” and “*The Last Adam*” come from? (See **1 Cor. 15:45-48**)

Part II: Death comes from Adam, but eternal life comes through Jesus Christ (Rom. 4:15-17)

1. In **verse 15** Paul argues from the lesser to the greater. What is he demonstrating? What is the free gift? (See **vv. 17, 18, 21**) Does the Bible teach that the way to salvation is broad or narrow? (See **Matt. 7:13-14**) What is the only way to salvation according to the Bible? (See **John 3:16; 14:6; Acts 4:12**)

2. What was the result of Adam’s offense according to **verse 16**? Christ’s death on the cross for our sin covers “*our many offenses*” and resulted in the justification of those who put their trust in Him. When and where did you receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If you haven’t received Christ yet as Savior, what is keeping you from doing so? According to the Bible, how far have the sins of those who have put their faith in Christ been removed? (See **Psa. 103:11-12; 1 John 1:9**)

3. What horrible reign came upon the earth as a result of Adam’s sin (**vs. 17**)? Was Adam’s sin “*imputed*” or “*applied*” to our account? Why or why not? According to **verse 17**, what gift is received by those who trust in Jesus? Theologically speaking, our righteousness is an “*imputed righteousness*.” “*Imputed righteousness*” means the righteousness of Christ is applied to our account and God declares us (*guilty sinners*) not guilty, He now sees us robbed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. What makes understanding the doctrine of “*imputation*” so critical to our understanding of the biblical gospel? (See **Eph. 2:8-10; Tit. 3:5-7**)

Part III: By one man's obedience, many will be made righteous (Rom. 4:18-21)

1. According to **verse 18**, how many people are condemned because of Adam's sin? Apart from Christ, what is the result of that judgment? Notice the "*righteous act*" of one Man is stated in the singular, what was that act? (See **Rom. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:3-4**)
2. According to the latter part of the **verse 18**, how many people receive this "*free gift*?" Is Paul teaching universalism here (*that everyone in the world will be saved*) by saying "*all men*?" Or is he teaching that "*all Christians*" (*regardless of their nationality*) will receive this gift?
3. Who are the "*many*" referred to in **verse 19a** that were made sinners? Who are the "*many*" in **verse 19b** who will be made righteous?
4. What was the purpose of the Mosaic Law (**vs. 20**)? (See **Gal. 3:22-25**) What did Paul teach abouts (*or superabounds*) even more than sin? R.C. Chapman writes, "*When we would consider the love of God in Christ, we are as one approaching the ocean: he casts a glance on the surface, but the depths he cannot sound.*" What can a simple walk along the ocean teach us about the superabundance of God's grace when it comes to our battle against sin? How does a single grain of sand on a beach compared to a mighty ocean demonstrate this truth?
5. According to **verse 21**, what is the end result when sin reigns in the lives of people? What happens when God's grace reigns in the lives of His people? All human beings will ultimately be judged by whether they allow sin to reign in their lives or God's grace, which of the two is reigning in your life? (See **2 Cor. 5:10-11, 17; Rev. 20:11-15**) What are some practical steps you can take to have a closer walk with God?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The theological term "*original sin*" is not a reference to Adam's original sin in the Garden, but rather to the consequences of that sin.
- Adam is a "*type*" (or *Old Testament foreshadow*) of Christ in the sense that his actions affected the eternal destiny of all people.
- In Adam all die, in Christ all who put their faith in Him are made alive.
- The purpose of the Mosaic Law is to reveal our sin to us and point to our need for Christ.
- The depths of God's grace are like a mighty ocean compared to a single grain of sand on the beach.
- Nothing that we do can earn our salvation, it is by grace through faith in the merits of Jesus Christ alone that saves us.