

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

14 - How Did We Get Into Such A Mess?

Romans 5:12-14

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Romans 1:18-3:20 – Mankind is hopelessly, helplessly lost in sin, and is destined for death and the judgment of God. We can do nothing to save ourselves.

Romans 3:21-5:11 – Jesus Christ provided the way of salvation for all who would believe by his justifying death on the cross. He alone can save us!

And now... Paul answers a question he wasn't actually asked, but anticipates being on his readers' minds:

How can Jesus' life & death affect many other people – even people like you and me today?

I. One man is responsible for SIN having entered the world: Adam.

Rom. 5:12 “Therefore, just as **through one man sin entered the world...**”

Remember—throughout the Bible, it is Adam (not Eve) who is blamed for the Fall of Man in Gen. 3... even though it was Eve who first took the fruit.

1 Tim. 2:14 “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

1 Cor. 15:21 “**For since by man came death**, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead.”

II. One man is responsible for DEATH having entered the world: Adam.

Rom. 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, **and death through sin...**”

Gen. 2:17 “... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**”

Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin *is* death...”

Sin and death are inseparable, and the Bible clearly teaches they find their origin in Adam's transgression in the Garden.

III. As a result of Adam's sinful CHOICE, all of mankind has a sinful NATURE.

Rom. 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, **and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—**”

Adam was sinner by choice. Since all mankind were in his loins, his sin became mankind's sin, and we are sinners by nature and, therefore, sinners by choice.

Adam was a sinner because he sinned.

(sinner by choice)

We sin because we are sinners.

(we are sinners by nature, and by choice)

IV. Even before God gave His law to Moses, death “reigned” over mankind.

Rom. 5:13,14a “For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam...”

Biblical history shows that long before God revealed His law, the penalty for sin—death—still reigned over mankind just as God promised would happen the moment Adam sinned (Gen. 2:17).

- God cursed Cain for killing his brother Abel (Gen. 4:11).
- God judged the earth, destroying all living things except those whom He saved with Noah on the ark (Gen. 6:5ff).
- God judged and destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah (Gen. 19).
- God judged the Egyptians by sending multiple plagues (Ex. 7-11)

Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over people who had not sinned in the “likeness of the transgression of Adam” as he disobeying God’s direct command. **Why? Our sinful natures make us “guilty” even before we are born.**

Psa. 51:5 “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, **And in sin my mother conceived me.**”

Psa. 58:3 “The wicked are estranged **from the womb**; They go astray **as soon as they are born**, speaking lies.”

Jer. 17:9 “**The heart is deceitful above all things**, And **desperately wicked**; Who can know it?”

Job 15:14 “What is man, that he could be pure? And *he who is born of a woman*, that he could be righteous?”

Everyone who doesn’t love the Lord Jesus Christ, regardless of the reason, even if it’s because they didn’t know or never heard, stands guilty before God and will go to hell if they are not saved. All are without excuse.

Rom. 1:18-21 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against **all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, **for God has shown it to them.**²⁰ For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse,**²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

1 Cor. 16:22 “**If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed.** O Lord, come!”

Why GFC Newport? Why GFC Florence? Why missions? Why evangelism? Why share the Gospel? Why be witnesses? Why look for opportunities? Why pray for an open door? Why build relationships? Why pursue people for Christ?

Acts 4:12 “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”