

Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

How Did We Get Out of Such A Mess?

Romans 5:15-21

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Romans 5 closes with a side-by-side comparison of Adam & Jesus, and what was accomplished by each of them for mankind.

I. **Adam's offense vs. Jesus' free gift: God's grace is greater than man's sin!** (Rom. 5:15,16)

Rom. 5:15,16 ¹⁵“But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, **much more** the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶And the gift is not like *that which* came through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense* resulted in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses resulted in justification.”

II. **Death vs. Life: Adam didn't get what He wanted, but Jesus did!**

Rom. 5:17 “For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)”

Remember—Adam's desire when he sinned was to become more like God, but his sin produced the very opposite of what he wanted.

**Sin will always take you further than you wanted to go,
cost you more than you wanted to pay,
and keep you longer than you wanted to stay.**

Jesus desire was for those who receive the abundance of grace & the gift of righteousness would reign in life through Him, and that's exactly what He wanted.

Psa. 119:140 “Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.”

Also, to “reign in life” also means we have **power over sin!**

Rom. 6:17,18 ¹⁷“But God be thanked that *though* you **were slaves of sin**, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. ¹⁸And **having been set free from sin**, you became slaves of righteousness.”

1 Cor. 15:56-58 ⁵⁶“The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brethren, be

steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

III. **Adam’s Disobedience → Condemnation vs. Jesus’ Obedience → Justification (5:18,19)**

Rom. 5:18a “¹⁸ **Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation,** even so through one Man’s righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ **For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners,** so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.”

God commanded Adam not to eat the forbidden fruit, but Adam disobeyed and brought death. (Rom. 5:18a,19a)

God sent His only Son into the world to suffer and die, and Christ’s obedience obeyed and brought life! (Rom. 5:18b,19b)

IV. **Law vs. Grace: Grace abounded much more!**

Rom. 5:20,21 “²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

“The Law has no permanent significance in the history of redemption”

The Letter of Paul to the Romans [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1985] p. 121

God’s own law had the effect of causing man’s transgression to increase (5:20). Because it places a restriction on people’s freedom to do as they please, people rebel against it because all of mankind are sinners by nature (Rom. 5:12-14).

But for the one who believes in and loves Jesus, grace abounds much more and reigns in their life!