

Sunday, Oct.4, 2009

Living Hope EFC

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The First Adam & the Last Adam: the one you are related to determines your eternity.

Rom.5:12-21

Illus: Nazi Membership Roll.

The knowledge that the entire membership roll of the **Nazi Party** was found soon after the collapse of the German army in WW 2, was no joyous news to the 8 million whose names were on it.

Once – these people were proud to be numbered with their ruler – Hitler. In many cases it meant to those listed – power & prestige & wealth. This “**master list**” had been the key to *places of honor and authority* for those whose names were listed.

BUT NOW – it was different. NOW it meant sharp investigation, prison – for many, and even death. – Lee Tan, 2872

The fact is, all Nazis received certain benefits or consequences through their relationship to their ruler, Adolph Hitler.

- He was their “federal head or representative.”

This principle, “federal headship,” is routinely seen in daily life.

DEFINED: “**The actions of one who is a representative of many, involve those he represents in either benefit or blame.**”

- The coach calls a play, & the whole team lives by the consequences.
- A dad becomes wealthy, all the children also share in his choices.
- Dec. 7, 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt asked for and received a declaration of war. His act meant all Americans were involved in the war, because he was our “federal representative.”

POINT: Often in life we experience benefits or consequences—due to the actions of someone in a place of authority over us – and their decisions.

In Romans 5:12-21 Paul is going to draw a parallel between two men, two Adams, whose decisions affect all who are related to them, in either death or in life. Both are the head of a human race— **5:18-19**.

- **Adam**, because of his role as “federal representative” of the human race – **by his decision** involved the whole human race in sin & death.
- **Christ** came to undo what Adam had done, and by his obedience became the Head of a new race that inherits eternal life.

The reality for you & me is: we either experience condemnation or eternal life – based upon which Adam we are related to.

Rom.5:12-14. All people die because of the first Adam’s sin.

Verse 12: Paul explains how sin & death entered the human race.

(1) In chapters 1-3 Paul detailed the fact that everyone in the human race is involved in sin & death & judgment, **3:23**. *But how did this happen?*

(2) Here Paul tells us the how it happened, he explains **the origin of sin**.

- He tells us where sin originated in the human race: *through 1 man*.
- He tells us where death originated: *through 1 sin*.
- He tells us the extent of sin & death: *"to all men."*
- **NOTE:** Paul believed in the *historical person Adam*, and in the Gen.1-3 account of creation and the fall of man into sin.

(3) One man, involved all men who came after him, in sin & in death.

- **The Bible sets forth Adam as the natural & representative head of his posterity. He was charged with the responsibility to obey God.** The threats given to Adam were threats & consequence for the whole race

(4) **"All sinned!"** Throughout the analogy (vs.15-19) Paul will continually point to **"one sin"** (he uses the number "1"–12 times), yet he states that **"all sinned" in this one act. And all are charged with sin, and all die.**

- "Adam, our federal representative, **failed his probation** & plunged his posterity into sin, wrath, & judgment, imputed to them directly."
- **"As a result of his fall, all men enter life constituted sinners before God, their only hope being the imputation of righteousness** provided by God through the saving work of the Last Adam." - S.Lewis Johnson

SOME WILL OBJECT: "It's not fair that Adam's choice should affect my eternity." **But...**"Adam's act is not the **final determinative** of our eternal destiny. **Physical death, yes, but not spiritual death.** One may still turn to Christ." We need to consider several facts:

1 – If we stood our probation ourselves, we would likely have also fallen.

2 – If each of us had sinned individually, there is no guarantee that God would have provided a representative who could save our race. The **angels** sinned individually, & were consigned to judgment. No savior.

3 – Just as we have *fallen* in the actions of a representative, it is easier to see why we may be *restored* through a representative. As Adam failed and involved us all in sin & death, Christ succeeded & now stands as our representative for securing righteousness - *by no merit of our own*.

- We may never understand this intellectually, but we cannot doubt our connection with Adam (sin, death), nor should we with Christ.
- *Connected to Adam*, every child born – must be taught to do good.

POINT: **Sin & death came into the human race through Adam's sin.**

- **We all share in the demerit of his action.**

Vs.13-14 Paul demonstrates mankind's connection to Adam.

Even when there was no specific "law" for man to sin against, all died, proof that all were sinners. (*Wages of sin is death.*)

- Not only are we all charged with Adam's act/ sin, but from Adam on all were born with a sin nature – producing rebellion against God.
- Rom.1:18-32 chronicles man's rejection of God.
- Genesis 4-8: Cain kills Abel, by Noah's time, **Gen.6:5-6. Eph.2:1-3**

Vs.14 – After a parenthesis, Paul gets back to his main point.

- Adam is a **type**/ pattern of Christ! (As representative of the race.)
- Paul's point in this section, and the following analogies, is to further explain and demonstrate what he has been saying in chapters 1-5.
- While, on the one hand, the whole human race was plunged into sin with it's horrible consequences – as chronicled in chapters 1-3, God, in sending His Son into the world has not only reversed those consequences –but **MUCH MORE 5:9-11 –He reconciled us to Himself!**
- ***The Second Adam has fixed the problem! He has saved the race!***

5:15-19. All men can LIVE because of the Last Adam's r'ess!

Paul is going to put together a **series of contrasts** between Adam & Christ to show that **what Adam did, involving us in sin, is no comparison to what Christ has done**, by God's grace, to give us right'ness & eternal life.

1: Vs.15. Contrast between Adam's "1" sin VS God's grace gift.

POINT: There is **NO comparison** between what one man did by mistake, and what almighty God did – on purpose, through His Divine Son.

Whereas Adam's sin brought death to all, by contrast, God's grace gift is MUCH MORE in it affect, abounding for many!

- ***What God's perfect, omnipotent Son can do is incomparable!***
- **Heb.1:1-3; 2:9,14-15; 10-11; 9:28; 10:14**
- Chafer's 33 accomplishments! **Rom.5:1,9-14!**
- Adam passed on demerit! **Christ has given us all His merit!**

2: Vs.16. Contrast: Adam committed *one* sin; grace covers *all* sins.

It took one sin to condemn all mankind. Christ took ALL SINS into consideration in redeeming mankind (Rom.3:25; Is.53:6; **1 John 2:2**).

- One sin, inoffensive at that, resulted in judgment & condemnation.
- God's FREE GIFT overcomes all sins & gives justification! (1:18-32)

APPLY: There is not one sin you've committed that grace does not cover.

- There is no person beyond the salvation that grace has provided!

3: Vs.17 Comparison & contrast between the *reign* of sin & grace

IF death reigned by the consequence of only one man's sin...MUCH MORE will life reign in all who receive ***the abundance of grace*** and ***gift of righteousness*** through the one man, the Last Adam, Jesus Christ.

- This is Paul's fourth "**MUCH MORE**," –V.9, 10, 15, 17.
- We will surely die – because of Adam's sin. **But we will most certainly live** in heaven with Jesus Christ because of the surpassing abundance of God's grace & righteousness given us in Jesus Christ.

POINT: We are not to view "death" as equal in power or prospect with "life" provided by God. The two are not even close to being twins!

- **Death is swallowed up by life! Life reigns!** - **2 Cor.5:1-2, 4b-5.**
- Paul is leading us to understand – **6:14!** Sin's master is over!
- Here we understand the truth of God's good intentions: Jer.29:11.

4: v.18,19 –Summary comparison. Adam's One act VS Christ's.

The difference in two choices/ acts = death and life!

All mankind's future hangs upon "1" act!

- Adam's disobedience resulted in eternal death, Christ's obedience resulted in righteousness...which qualifies man for eternal life.

ILLUS: Christ our Kinsman Redeemer! (Dt.25:5-6) – **Is.53:10-12**

- Where Adam died leaving no descendants for God.
- **Christ came to bear offspring for God** – in Adam's place. – Rom.4:17; 1 Cor.15:4
- **FAITH in Christ** – moves us legally from Adam's death to Christ's life!

APPLY: How important were these men's acts/ decisions?

- Do we really have any idea how important our acts of disobedience or obedience are? Can you think of acts/ decisions made – that changed the course of history? – **David** & Goliath. Bathsheba.
- **Can you think of decisions that changed your life irreversibly?**
- It is no wonder God makes every provision for us to be freed from sin

5:20-21. When sin increased, grace abounded & now reigns!

Paul had spoken of the place of "law" in regards righteousness: 3:19-20, 4:15. In fact, *law only pinpointed* and exposes our sins.

- **Yet, as profuse as sin was/is – it is no match for GRACE!**

Sin and death reigned through the conduct and act of one mere man.

Righteousness & eternal life reign through the death & resurrection of J.C.

- ***It is sheer arrogance to think Adam's sin could maintain its ongoing force over us, when God Himself has acted against it to set us free!***
- **God VS man! Creator VS created? Almighty VS man? Who wins?**

Q: - Which family are you in? Adam's or Christ's?