

# God's Good News About Righteousness

## An Inductive Study of the Book of Romans

by James T. Bartsch, WordExplain.com

### Study 10, The Success of Declared Righteousness

Romans 5:12-21

- A. INTRODUCTION: The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (Romans 1:1-17). (Study 1)
- B. CONDEMNATION: The Unveiling of God's Wrath against Man's Unrighteousness 1:18 - 3:20 (Studies 2-5)
- C. **JUSTIFICATION: The Declaration of Righteousness through Faith 3:21 - 5:21.**
  - 1. God's Righteous Provision of a Righteousness for Humans Apart From the Law 3:21-31. (Study 6.)
  - 2. Abraham, the Illustration of Righteousness Declared Because of Faith. 4:1-25. (Studies 7, 8)
  - 3. The Incredible Benefits of Declared Righteousness 5:1-11. (Study 9)
  - 4. **The Supreme Success of Declared Righteousness in Contrast to the Defeat of Condemnation. 5:12-21. (Study 10)**
    - a. **Death Proves That All Men Are Sinners Even Before the Arrival of God's Law. 5:12-14.**
      - 1) How did sin enter the world? (5:12, see Genesis 3:1-7).
      - 2) What entered the world because of sin? (5:12).
      - 3) How many people did death affect? (5:12).
      - 4) Why did death affect everyone? (5:12).
      - 5) In Romans 5:13-14, Paul says that sin existed in the world from the time of Adam (4000 B.C.) onward. Yet it also says that God did not start charging sins to the account of each person until after the Law was given through Moses in 1400 B.C. (Exodus 19-40; Leviticus 1-27). Yet people died from Adam to Moses anyway! Why did death spread to all men? The answer is given in the last three words of 5:12, "because all sinned." In the language Paul used, the word "sinned" means "sinned at a point in time." What was the point in time to which Paul was referring? <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 5:12 - point in time: Paul is not saying here that all men die because they all keep sinning. Rather he is saying that they all die because they all sinned. The action of the sin contemplated is not an ongoing series of sins,

**b. The Grace of God is Superior to the Judgment of Sin. 5:15-17.**

- 1) The **amount** of God's grace is greater than the **amount** of the judgment coming from Adam's sin.. 5:15.
  - a) How does God's free gift compare with the transgression of Adam? (5:15a).
  - b) What was the consequence of the sin of one man? (5:15b). (This is a just and fair consequence, by the way.)
  - c) How does the gift of grace through the one Man, Jesus Christ, compare with the deadly consequences of Adam's sin? (5:15c).<sup>2</sup>
- 2) The gift of God's grace has a superior capacity to cope with a **quantity** of sins. 5:16.
  - a) How many sins did it take to condemn the whole human race to death? (5:16a).
  - b) How many sins are covered by God's free gift of justification (declaring people righteous if they believe in Jesus)? (5:16b).
- 3) The **result** of God's grace is vastly superior when compared with the **result** of condemnation coming through Adam. 5:17.
  - a) What reigned over all because of the transgression of one man, Adam? (5:17a).
  - b) What will happen to "those who receive the abundance of grace and ... the gift of righteousness"? (5:17b).

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but a sin at a point in time. The inference is that, when Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, he sinned as our representative and consequently all men die. Just as a basketball player who misses a critical free throw at the end of the game represents the whole team and causes the whole team to lose, so Adam's one sin as the representative of the human race causes all men to die. This truth is, as we say in the vernacular, "a real downer." But there is great news to counteract this bad news starting in 5:15.

<sup>2</sup> 5:15c - grace: Keep in mind that grace speaks of a gift, not an obligation. God was not obligated to rescue anyone from the deadly consequences of sin.

**c. There are Certain Similarities between Grace and Condemnation. 5:18-19.**

- 1) There is a similarity between **one act** and its universal application. 5:18.
  - a) What was the result of one act of transgression? (5:18a).
  - b) What was the result of one act of righteousness? (5:18b).
- 2) There is a similarity between **one man** having enormous influence. 5:19.
  - a) What happened because of the disobedience of one man, Adam? (5:19a).
  - b) What happened because of the obedience of one man, Jesus? (5:19b).

**d. God Made a Super-Gracious Response to the Deadly Condemnation from Adam's Sin. 5:20-21.**

- 1) Why did God bring in the Law (Exodus 19-40; Leviticus 1-27)? (5:20a).
- 2) In response to increased sin, what did God super-increase? (5:20b).
- 3) There is a net effect of grace's super-superiority! (5:21).
  - a) How would you describe the reign of Adam's one sin? (5:21a).
  - b) How would you describe the reign of grace? (5:21b).
  - c) Who is the one person through whom grace can reign? (5:21c).
  - d) When Jesus came to the world He had made, was He well-received? (John 1:11).
  - e) What happens to every one who receives Jesus? (John 1:12).

- f) How would you describe their birth? (John 1:13).
- g) Have you received Jesus, God's free gift to mankind?

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