

(12) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man --- and death through sin --- and so death spread to all men because all sinned --- for sin indeed was in the world before the Law was given --- but sin is not counted where there is no Law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a “type” of the One who was to come.

(15) But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that One man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

(17) For if, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the ‘free gift of righteousness’ reign in life through the One man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the One man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

(20) Now the Law came in to increase the trespass --- but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more --- so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Think on These Things:

- 1) From vs. 12-14, how do we know that sin was in the world before God gave Moses the Law?

Everybody from Adam through Moses --- except Enoch --- physically “died,” though they ‘sinned’ differently...!

- 2) According to vs. 14, what was Adam with respect to Jesus?

Adam, the first man, was a “type” of the One who was to come (Jesus). Jesus was a ‘first’ too!

- 3) Verse 15 speaks about the “free gift” being unlike sin. What is the free gift?

The “free gift” of God is the undeserved grace and the righteousness of God (v. 17). It provides salvation to people in response to their individual expressions of faith in Jesus’ sacrificial and substitutionary death on the cross for all men, confirmed as satisfactory to God the Father by His raising Jesus from the dead.

- 4) What are the results of sin, and of the free gift (v. 16)?

Sin brings judgment and condemnation, but God’s free gift through Jesus brings justification through His righteousness (v. 17, which brings us salvation).

- 5) Who was the man who brought physical and spiritual death to humanity? Do you believe he was a real person or is he fictional, part of an “allegory” (story) to teach us a spiritual truth? See also Genesis 2:7, 15-25; 3:1-24 and Romans 8:7.

The Bible teaches us in Genesis and Romans that Adam, the first man, is responsible for bringing sin --- and death --- into our human world. This sin changed our attitude towards God, too, affecting our relationship with Him. In Romans 8:7, it says that our flesh(sin)-focused minds became hostile towards God.

While some believe that the Genesis Creation Story and Fall of Man account is only a moral 'story' (allegory), Jesus spoke very clearly about these folks as real people in real times.

- 6) Who was "obedient unto death, even death on the cross" (Philippians 2:4-11)? What is the benefit of that to us (v. 20)?

Jesus willingly stepped down, out of heaven as our Creator to put on "humanity" and live as a man amongst us. He accepted our form and its limitations (i.e., compared to being God). He accepted 'dying', even dying by crucifixion. Because of this sacrifice, God the Father has highly exalted Him above all others --- every knee will bow to Him! Paul says in Romans that wherever sin seems prevalent and abundant, God's offer of forgiving grace is greater and more than sufficient!

- 7) Sin has always been present --- even rampant --- in our world. What are we told about grace and the high volume of sin that will bring about the wrath of God one day (v. 20)? Can you explain how this makes you feel?

The wrath of God is being stored up for the disobedient (Romans 2:5). V. 20 states that just as Adam's personal sin introduced an inherent sinful nature into all mankind --- so that everyone is naturally a sinner --- wherever sins increased and abounded, Jesus' death and resurrection providing God's grace, forgiveness, and righteousness abounded even more! Grace > Sin!

Personal response. Easily recognizing that one is not perfect, there should be an unrestrained expression of gratitude for the forgiving grace of God. Every time we screw up with what we say, do, or think, forgiveness and reconciliation are freely offered by God. We need to remember 1 John 1:9 – sincerely acknowledge sin and confess it to God, and He promises to cleanse us from unrighteousness. "Repentance" means, "I want to change...."

People and situations I want to pray for this week: