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| 1  Romans 5.15-21 Sermon Outline  12/08/24  “The Reign of Grace and Life”  **INTRO:**  Virginia, major fire started…(whether accidental/intentional) = Matts Creek Fire  George Washington/Jefferson National Forest  Fire = burned 2 weeks, burned 11,000 acres  120 firefighters, 7 fire crews, 4 type-6 engines, three type one helicopters  Now used to be charred, black = green shrubs/trees/forest = actually healthier  That is the picture = Adam did  One spark of disobedience ignited ablaze whole forest  Adam burned all humanity to ground | 2  But 2000 years ago Second Adam came onto scene and extinguished this fire = held many in agony over millennias  Not only this = Christ poured out water of life = flourish and bring new life  Our passage today = compare Adam/Christ  Last time = reign of sin and death  Because of original sin = we can’t do anything about our condition before God  But today, we will look at what Christ did to undo all of what Adam did, and not only undo, but actually giving us new life in Christ  If you are struggling with doubt or have struggled with doubt about salvation = passage for you  If you are struggling with sin and despair = passage is for you |
| 3  But we need not doubt, nor fear, for what Christ did for you was infinitely far greater than what Adam did to you  Here is what Christ did V. 15  “*But the gracious gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.”*  How does the grace of God abound much more to the many?  V. 16  “*And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the gracious gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification*.” | 4  Let’s put in perspective  No court do death penalty for stealing fruit  Yet Adam = death penalty  No venial/mortal sins  No first/second/third degree sins  That’s how serious sin is = God’s sight  All sin, no matter how small = death penalty  One act = condemnation to entire, human, race!  But here’s amazing contrast:  Christ undid not only one sin of Adam  But billions/billions = sins  One versus “many” transgressions |
| 5  That’s why Jesus’ gift not like that which came through one who sinned  Imagine you are in court and you received a life sentence without parole = from Adam  But you also did a very bad thing = 2x life sentences  Every one in Adam = automatically = life sentence = death sentence  Our sin gives death sentence upon death sentence  Raise hand: how many of you know exact number of sins?  Countless!  Even if Christ died only for Adam’s sin angels in Rev. 5:9  “*Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals, because You were slain and purchased for God with Your blood people from every tribe and tongue and people and nation*.” | 6  But praise God not only for Adam but all sins  3 hours horror of being a curse for us  Died for not just an act of eating fruit when commanded not to, but for murder, rape, abuse of children, abortion, etc.  In fact He reversed all the list of sins Rom. 1:  Sins of:  unrighteousness, wickedness, greed; evil; envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, hating God, violence, arrogance, boasting, inventing evil, disobedience to parents, the sin of being unreasonable, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful, and the sin of encouraging others to do sin knowing that those sins are worthy of death.  Not only did He justify us, Christ also made us His royal children = to reign with Him |
| 7  “*For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through that one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ*.”  One day we will reign in victory over Christ….  Revelation 1:6 “*and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen*.”  But reigning in life will not only come in the future, if you have trusted in Christ, reigning with Christ starts now!  Eph. 1:3 “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*…”  Christ has given you royal power from the heavens to break the power of sin so that sin no longer has dominion over you | 8  Christ has not only justified you, He has reconciled you to the Father, redeemed you by His precious blood, atoned for you, has placed His Holy Spirit to permanently dwell inside of you, and He has sanctified you and He will one day glorify you when He gives you a new imperishable body like His  This all comes = gift of righteousness = “gift” not something you “earn”  Paul comparing Adam/Christ = not because power level is close  But to help you see that there is no close call = there is no comparison really to what Adam did and what Christ did  Not a wrestling match where each fighter is doing really good  No what Christ did far exceeds Adam’s work  Unbeliever: Death is certain  Believer: Life is certain |
| 9  We come to the summary of Paul’s argument V. 18  Remember Verse 12 = Verse 18  “*Therefore just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned…verse 18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men*.”  And Paul clarifies what he means by “righteousness” V. 19  “*For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were appointed sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be appointed righteous*.”  Righteousness is not righteousness if it not living in accordance with God’s will  If it is not done out of pleasing the will of God | 10  Prefer NASB “Made” sinners = instead of “appointed” sinners  Adam so polluted the entire race that we are born into the world as sinners!  But when we are born again through Christ, we are born again righteous in His sight  Adam has so affected us that not even the Law can help us  V. 20  “*Now the Law came in so that the transgression would increase…*  Might sound redundant/dead horse = brings up Law = how powerful and widespread Adam’s sin was in bringing death to this world  How so? Because of the way the Law functions towards sinners = Law increases our sin two ways |
| 11  1) Increases our sin = increasing awareness of sin in different ways  Sins of commission + sins of omission  “You shall not lie…”  “You shall love the Lord your God…”  Without the Law, we don’t see our sins in its proper light  2) Gives occasion for us to be more enticed to sin  When Law says “don’t cross that line” = “You are more tempted to cross that line”  naturally sinful, rebellious, = we don’t like being told what to do  We want to be autonomous/have control in our lives  Master of our own lives | 12  Because when something is presented as you shall not cross… = like Eve believe that God is withholding something good from us = lie/deception  Law itself is not corrupt = good/perfect  We are problem = not Law  Law = never designed to save but to point to the One who could save  God knew all this and designed Law to increase our transgressions  We are so twisted in our sin that when the Law should have helped us with our sin, it instead makes it worse  And with increase of sin upon sin you would expect wrath like river being held back by dam  V. 20 “*But where increased, (not wrath abounded but) grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death,* |
| 13  *even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord*.”  Abounded = huperperisuo = superabounded = much much more than what Adam did  Grace of Christ far surpasses what Adam did  How much more supreme Jesus’ obedience was than Adam  At one point in his life = Adam failed  At all points in his life = Jesus did not fail but succeeded  All of Jesus’ acts were in fact one righteous act  Jesus = rain that extinguished inferno of Adam’s sin  Not only extinguish = brought new life from the ground  Christ can do that in your life | 14  He can extinguish the fire as easy as blowing a candle out  No matter how hot the tempest of sin and death might seem in your life  No matter what you may be facing in life, Christ can justify you because grace and life was meant to reign over us rather than sin and death  So dear Christian, whatever sin or trial you might be facing, know that nothing is stronger, and more certain than the obedience of Jesus  The grace of Jesus is infinitely greater in every way than the sin of Adam  Be assured that your own sin, somebody else’s sin, and not even your death will reign supreme  The grace of Christ and the life of Christ in you will reign supreme for all eternity |
| 15  Benediction: |  |