

Sermon #12, Romans 5:12-14
February 26, 2003
Pastor Wesley Rowe
Calvary Bible Church

Turn with me in your Bible please to Romans 5. I will be reading vv. 12-14. I ask that you follow along in your own Bibles as I read and if you happened to forget to bring your Bible, the Word of God has been put in front of your eyes so that you can behold it as you listen to me read it.

Romans 5:12-14:

V. 12, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-

V. 13, for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.

V. 14, Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come."

Let's pray.

You will notice from the verses which I just read that there are at least 6 references to the word "sin." And for those of you who were here last Sunday and heard me preach upon Romans 5, vv. 1, 9-11, to return once again to the subject of sin might be confusing and disappointing to you.

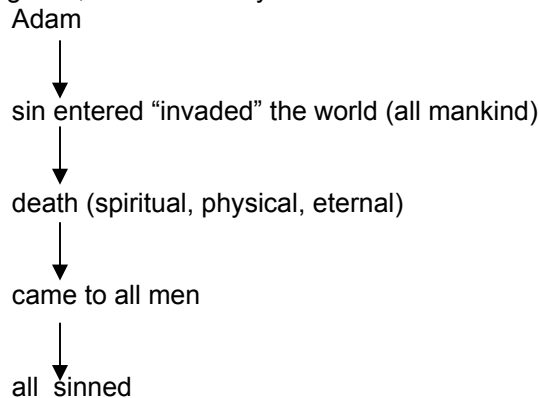
You'll recall from Romans 5:1 that we learned, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Vv. 9-11 express this concept of peace to us through using the word "reconciled." Those verses say, "Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life. Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

You'll recall that last week, I told you that the word, "reconcile" or "reconciliation" literally means "to exchange enmity for friendship." That is what we now enjoy. It is a present reality that through God's grace we have been given, each one of us, when we placed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And that truth causes us to rejoice in God, to take pleasure in God, to be happy with God. This truth, this reality of peace with God, of God making us his friend, speaks to our emotions. It causes us to rejoice in God and that should cause us to speak enthusiastically about God, to sing with zeal to him, to pray with confidence to him. Oh, my friends what a change. I remind you that in Romans 3:19, right after Paul tells us of our terrible predicament that we have each committed sin in the presence of God. Paul says that this fact "shuts our mouth before God." Do you remember that? "So that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God." Before, we could not speak, yea we dare not speak to God. We dare say nothing because of our sin. Now, having been justified by the grace of God and given peace and placed among God's friends, Paul now says, "we rejoice in God."

Now having covered that last week, such an encouraging message, it seems sort of strange that we once again return in Romans 5 to the subject of sin. Why does Paul do this? Why does he talk about our new standing of righteousness that has led to peace with God and a standing of friendship and then come back to the subject of sin? For this reason. In Chapters 1-3, Paul talks about how the whole world and every person in the world is guilty of individual and personal sin before God. Beginning with Romans 5:12, Paul is going to tell us how and with whom sin originated in the world and the two effects that the original sin has had upon us. Therefore, Paul is going to talk about a man by the name of Adam. You have heard of him, haven't you? We first read of him in the first book of the Bible, Genesis, where we read the account of Creation and how all things came into existence here on the earth, including sin. And Paul is now going to talk about the first man, Adam, and how his sin affected the whole human race.

Look with me then at v. 12. "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."



Now there are 2 very important doctrinal truths that we need to learn from this verse.

1.) This verse tells us why every person is a sinner, why every person has a propensity to sin, why every person has a nature that is bent on sinning.

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man . . ."

Quotes: "It is hardly necessary to remark that world (Kosmos) does not here mean the universe. Sin existed before the fall of Adam. It can only mean the 'world of mankind.' Sin entered the world; it came into the whole human race. The words, 'entered the world' mean much more than that sin began to be in the world. It means that the world, Kosmos, mankind became sinners." Charles Hodge

"When Paul says 'entered the world' he refers to the beginning of sin in the human race and 'the world' means the sphere of human existence. John Murray

2.) This verse also tells us why we stand condemned before God even before we ever personally sin. It is because we are held to be guilty of Adam's sin.

Let me show you. Do you see those last 2 words, "all sinned." You have a noun and you have a verb. The noun is "all." The verb is "sinned." But let me tell you something about the verb, "sinned". In the original language, the verb "sinned" is a 3rd person plural, aorist tense verb. Let me give you a little Greek grammar lesson at this point in time.

"The function of the aorist tense is of tremendous importance. The *time* of action is past. The *kind* of action is punctiliar. These two facts about the aorist indicate finished action in past time. The aorist functions as a "snapshot" that occurred in the past, not continuous action."

Because the verb is a third person plural, it refers to "they" meaning "all" the human race.

So what is this verse teaching? It is teaching this. God looked upon all mankind as present in Adam and condemned all mankind when Adam sinned."

Vv. 18-19 supports this interpretation. Look at them. "Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for *ALL MEN* . . . For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners . . ."

Now let me give you some quotes from reputable scholars to show this to be the accurate interpretation of Romans 5:12. And then I will work through vv. 13-14 and then draw some theological and doctrinal conclusions from these verses.

M. L. Jones: "Paul asserts that we are all guilty of the act that brought sin into the world, the act of that one man Adam. The teaching here is that Adam's sin is imputed to the whole of mankind. The Apostle's contention is that all sinned in the original sin of Adam."

Warren Wiersbe: "Each of us is racially united to Adam so that his deed affects us. 'Because all sinned' means that all sinned in Adam's sin."

William Newell: "The whole point is that *all* acted when Adam acted: *all* sinned."

Everett Harrison: "That we could have sinned in Adam may seem strange and unnatural to the mind of Western man. Nevertheless, it is biblical teaching. When Adam sinned, the race sinned because the race was in him. To put it boldly, Adam was the race. What he did, his descendants, who were still in him, did also."

Now how does Paul know that? He tells us that Adam's sin brought every person in the human race under the condemnation of sin. He tells us that we are all held accountable for Adam's one sin, but how does he know that? He knows it from having studied the Old Testament and having pieced truths together. That is what he tells us in vv. 13-14. Vv. 13-14 are given to us to prove Paul's point that all of humanity are held accountable before God and condemned by God for Adam's sin.

V. 13, for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.

V. 14, Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come."

Now what are four doctrinal/theological conclusions we can draw from this passage?

1. Genesis 1-5 is TRUE! What we read of God and His warning to Adam; what we read of Adam and his disobedience; what we read of death is ALL TRUE ACCORDING TO PAUL.
2. Adam's sin spoiled his own nature and the nature of all those who would descend from him. All mankind are born with a sinful nature. "Through one man sin was in the world (mankind) . . ."
3. The universality of death can only be explained from what God has told us in the Bible. Why do all men physically die? Because they are sinners by nature and by association with Adam.
4. All men are condemned (declared guilty of sin) because they sinned in Adam even before they have individually and personally committed sins.

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"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ". Romans 5:1

"Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life. Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." Romans 5:9-12

"So that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God." Romans 3:19

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-" Romans 5:12

Adam himself sinned (v. 15)
sin entered "invaded" the world (all mankind)
death (spiritual, physical, eternal)
came to
all men

all sinned

2 very important truths that Paul tells us about sin in V. 12.

1.) This verse tells us why every person is a sinner, why every person has a propensity to sin, why every person has a nature that is bent on sinning.

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Quotes on meaning of “entered the world” in Romans 5:12:

1.) “It is hardly necessary to remark that world (Kosmos) does not here mean the universe. Sin existed before the fall of Adam. It can only mean the ‘world of mankind.’ Sin entered the world; it came into the whole human race. The words, ‘entered the world’ mean much more than that sin began to be in the world. It means that the world, Kosmos, mankind became sinners.” Charles Hodge

2.) “When Paul says ‘entered the world’ he refers to the beginning of sin in the human race and ‘the world’ means the sphere of human existence. John Murray

2.) This verse also tells us why we stand condemned before God even before we ever personally sin. It is because we are held to be guilty of Adam’s sin.

The verb, “sinned”.

The verb “sinned” is a 3rd person plural, aorist tense verb.

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“Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for **ALL MEN** . . . For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners . . .” Vv. 18-19.

Quotes on meaning of “all sinned” in Romans 5:12:

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Four doctrinal/theological conclusions we must add to our Christian belief system from this passage.

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