**A landscape with a sunset and mountains

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**ROMANS 5:3-4a** “…we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; 4and perseverance, character; and character, **hope**.”

**Tribulations 🡪 Perseverance 🡪 Character 🡪 HOPE!**

### Romans 5:12-21

**12 “**Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

**13***(To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law.****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 is a pattern of the one to come.*

***15****But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!****16****Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.****17****For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!)*

**18**Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. **19**For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

**20**The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, **21**so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” <>

**Three time periods mentioned:**

1. **Adam to Moses (2600 yrs.) – “no law” (***Romans 5:14**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,*)
2. **Moses to Jesus (1400 yrs.) – “under the law” (***Duet. 6:25* ***“****And if we are careful to obey all this law before the Lord our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness.*”)
3. **Jesus to us – (2000) “free from the law” (***Romans 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.*”)

Paul talks repeatedly about the time before the law in the previous chapters of Romans. This is why he emphasized that Abraham (pre-law)“believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” Abraham lived in those 2600 that took place before the law was given. However, he was among those who Paul says

**Romans 2:15** “They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness”

These are those he also spoke about in;

**Romans 1:20“**For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

**But unlike us who have been given salvation in Jesus resulting in Spiritual life, they only had spiritual death because of sin. This is why Paul says;** *“death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses”.*

The death was the result of the sin of Adam, and therefore was passed on to mankind in perpetuity.

**Verse:12“**Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people.”

Adam's sin resulted in a curse being placed not only on Adam, and not only on the entire human race, but on all creation. That curse was *spiritual death*.

SOUL or the SPIRIT

This Spiritual death occurred during the fall of man in the Garden of Eden and has been passed on to generations ever since. The Lord gave Adam the one command to “not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” The consequence of eating from that tree was *death*.

**Genesis 2:16–17** “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely *die*.’”

The death they experienced was the death of their spirits. They now were bound to living in only the realm of the soul and the body, both of which would also be subject to death after the curse. The curse of spiritual death was passed down to their descendants. Every person ever born bore the curse of spiritual death, except one, the one whose father was not human; in fact, His father was the Holy Spirit. That is the reason Jesus is the only one who can make those who are dead in spirit, alive in spirit, through His Holy Spirit. He is the way, the truth, and the life, so He can give life to our spirits.

What does it look like when someone is spiritually dead? It means that their spirits have not yet been made alive through Jesus. They may be physically healthy (body), and may also be adequately stable, both mentally and emotionally (soul), but *spiritually* they are dead.

This is why many of our own family, friends, and loved ones have no affinity or even perception of the things of God. They may not even believe in Him and therefore are unaware and unattracted to things of the Spirit.

**1st Corinthians 2:14** “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them,* because they are spiritually discerned.”

This is why *being made alive in the spirit* is so important. Because of the curse, we are all born with *death in the flesh*, but we can be born again into *life in the spirit*.

**Verse:17-18**“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! **18**Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. **19**For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”

* One man - Adam released a “pandemic of spiritual death and separation from God” that has permeated the entire world for 6000 years because of sin.
* One man - Jesus rectified all that through his death on the cross, and resurrection form the dead, so that we can be free from the curse of sin, and are given life in the spirit, reconciling us to God.

**Verse 20a** “*The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase.*

This is an interesting verse. It seems to be saying that the law was given so that people would sin more, but that’s not what this means. It simply says that the law was brought in so that we can recognize our sins, and once we do, we can repent of them, and receive grace to be forgiven of them.

The law shows the trespasses.

[example: Thanksgiving football game – when there are nondescript boundaries, (tree?, bush?, in line with the corner of the house?), players can go out of bounds and no one would really know. Even if it was apparent, there was no way to prove or convince of an infraction. It’s much better when the lines are clear, then penalties can be *given*, but also FORGIVEN.]

Second part of that verse:

*Verse 20b* ***“****But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more****.”***

Jesus knows our sin. He also knows how much grace is needed to cover our sin. The more sin, the more grace needed. His appeal to us is to come as we are, however, sinful, however much in need of forgiveness, mercy and grace. Once we come humbly yet boldly to him, then can he begin to wash and restore us.

**Heb 4:16** “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

He does not say, cleanse yourself of sin, begin living a flawless life, and when you are spotlessnessly ready, then you can think about coming to the throne of grace. No, In His mercy, and grace, He does the forgiving, He makes us worthy, he is the one who cleanses us of all unrighteousness.

**1st John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Where sin abounds, grace does that much more abound! (Even if it doesn’t seem fair!)

Jesus ran into this issue with the Pharisees.

### Luke 7:36-48 “One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. 37When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. 38Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

**39**When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”

**40***Then Jesus answered his thoughts.* “Simon,” he said to the Pharisee, “I have something to say to you.”

“Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied.

**41**Then Jesus told him this story: “A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. **42**But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?”

**43**Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.”

“That’s right,” Jesus said. **44**Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45**You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. **46**You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

**47**“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” **48**Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Do we ever act like the Pharisees and respond in pride or arrogance to someone who is clearly operating in a posture of humility, and repentance, and coming before the Lord to receive mercy?

We cannot allow that root of pride to remain in us. (If you have that you may need a Pharisectomy, where the Lord takes it right out of you).

[ Big Ted Story]

Our church is coming into a season where we are going to be welcoming *people like that* regularly. How will we respond, to people who come to us. Who, as awkward as it may feel, make their way to our service? And as uncomfortable as it may be, walk in a sit somewhere to listen to experience the worship and listen to the message.

My hope is that when they meet you (and me), that they are received with love and kindness. That they are welcomed into an environment of joy that they’ve never know before. And that regardless of who they are, how they are, or where they came from, they can come be encouraged here to come Boldy to the throne of grace to receive mercy, just like we did when we first came.

Billy Graham used a certain hymn for every one of his evangelistic crusades. The song’s simple message was of one of a sinner coming to Jesus to receive mercy, grace and forgiveness. Very likely more people came to salvation during this sing, than any other in recorded history.

Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid’st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

When we come to Jesus, whether it’s for initial salvation, forgiveness of sin, or just to feel close to Him again, he will always welcome us. *(a contrite heart he will never turn away.)*

He welcomes us to come boldly to the throne of grace and receive mercy,

even if we are abounding in sin,

because *“where sin abounds, grace abounds much more”.*

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