

In the Gospel We Receive Righteousness

March 12, 2023 ▪ Brad Manley

A story of _____: **The first Adam.**

A story of _____: **The second Adam.**

A story of _____: **Our story.**

Romans 5:12-19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet 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.

¹⁵But 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. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷For 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.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are attributes that you think of when you think of someone who is righteous?

Read: Romans 5:12-19

Discuss:

1. This passage highlights the action of two men: The first Adam and the second Adam (*v. 14b. See also 1 Corinthians 15:45-49*). What makes Adam and Christ alike? How are we like each of these two men?
2. In order to best understand the intended meaning of individual verses within this passage, we must use the larger passage for context. How would you describe the intent of Paul's contrast between Adam and Jesus in the larger passage?
3. The impact of Adam's trespass is placed in contrast with the impact of the free gift in Jesus (*vv. 15-16*). How do verses 15-17 help us see the beauty of the free gift in the Gospel? Why might Paul use our legacy from Adam as a foundation from which to appreciate the beauty of the Gospel?
4. The word "justification" appears in both verse 16 and 18. What do you think Paul means when he uses the word "justification"? How is justification different from forgiveness? How would you explain the meaning and significance of our justification when sharing the Gospel or talking with a new believer?
5. In verse 17, Paul speaks of "those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness" through Jesus Christ. What Scriptures could be helpful to use as we explain to someone how they receive that gift?
6. According to verse 17, believers "reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ." How would you put that expression in your own words? (*Perhaps consider 1 Corinthians 15:45-49.*) In what way does this declaration help you think differently about your life?
7. What do you think it means to "be made righteous" (*v. 19*). What is the difference between being righteous and being *made* righteous?

Apply: How does the "free gift of righteousness" (*v. 17*) serve to motivate you to try to live righteously?

Pray: Pray that we will walk joyfully in the righteousness that Christ provides us in the Gospel.