



**Romans 5:12-14**  
**18 Adam & Jesus**  
**Sunday May 26, 2019**  
**Courage Church, Detroit, MI**

For the next couple of weeks we are going to focus on Romans 5:12-21. It is probably the most dense section in all of Romans, and getting through it in two weeks is probably optimistic but that is our goal. What we will do this morning is read all nine verses, but then focus only on the first three. Then next week we will

try and get through the rest of it.

So lets read it all, Romans 5:12-21

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— <sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> **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.**

<sup>16</sup> **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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup> For 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. <sup>20</sup> Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the

more, <sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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We can break down these three paragraphs in this way (Stott):

in the first section, both Adam and the new Adam, Jesus Christ, are introduced. Adam is introduced as the one who is responsible for sin and death entering this world... and is identified as a “type” of the one who was to come, which we see soon after, is Jesus. If you read that first paragraph closely, you will see that it really feels like Paul begins a thought that he never actually finishes. It is actually a very bizarre paragraph.

In the second paragraph, Adam and Jesus are contrasted... and in the final paragraph of the section they are COMPARED...

Now, we are going to focus today on the first section.

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— <sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup> 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.

First is the word “therefore” - this is very significant because it is a connector... the very last verse before this one talks about we should REJOICE IN GOD THROUGH JESUS, through whom we have NOW RECEIVED RECONCILIATION!!!! therefore...

so because we have been reconciled... because we know that THAT part is done and sealed... now we can address the problem of Adam. And again, note this section:

Read these first verses closely... therefore... just as sin came into the world through one man... - - - typically in writing like this, the writer would say something like “just as sin entered through one man, it was dealt with through another... Jesus.” That is probably how I would have written that

sentence. But instead, Paul just does this sort of ongoing Greek sentence here in what honestly to me just seems like a babbling rant about how awful Adam is... that Paul seems to end his sentence without bringing closure to it. It starts with JUST AS... and the entire paragraph you don't get a contrast... the only "so" you get is more emphasis on the sin of Adam. But the part that I want to hone in on a bit closer today is verse 13:

for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.

This verse, to me, is fascinating.

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Years ago, we were living in the Rockaway's and one night we were driving home, we had our three kids in the car, packed into our back seat and for whatever reason THEY WERE JUST SCREAMING. All three of them. They were going just absolutely nuts. And as I was driving, I saw some lights flashing behind me, and heard a little beep beep siren pulling me over. I remember it vividly... the Rockaway's are on a narrow peninsula only a few blocks wide, and there is a train that runs through the center of it... and there is a road that runs right under the train and that was where we were when we were pulled over.

So the kids are just screaming... and this officer comes up to us, and we roll down our window and I can barely hear the officer over the shrieks of my children. And he doesn't even know what to do... he tells me what I did wrong... it was something small like a brake light was out or something like that... I couldn't really hear him :)

anyway, he was really upset that the kids were yelling... to the point where he didn't want to deal with it any longer... and without saying anything he went back to his car... I assumed to run our plate number or write up some sort of citation or warning or something.

And we sat there waiting for a while for him to come back... but he never came back. Eventually, we turned around, and HE WAS GONE.

He had just driven away.

We live today in a legal system where a light can be out on a car... and we have a law for that. There are many many laws... when driving... to remind you... okay... I am going to fast, I need to slow down before I pass a cop. It puts a bit of fear into us... and BECAUSE WE KNOW WHAT THE LAW IS... something innate in us tells us when we are breaking it... even when we are not trying to be malicious or anything like that.

When I was a kid... I say kid, but I had a drivers license so I wasn't THAT YOUNG... our friends would always do this prank, it was kind of like an extreme version of ding dong ditching where we would go to businesses... Office Max was the best... and behind the store was a large bell for delivery trucks to ring... and it was like this super loud bell and the words right over it read "RING BELL" - so as far as we were concerned, that bell was meant to be rung. But the back doors at most of those places are on the alarm system, and when they open the back door, the alarms all go off.

So what we would do was we would go there, and hold it down... and it was really loud... and we would hold it down for several minutes before finally someone would swing the door open super mad at us... the alarms would all sound and we would run as fast as we could. Then, a little while later, we would ring it again.

We made this a thing... we spent most of our time after school going and ringing bells, and one summer it was the thing we lived for... but you know, even though that sign said "RING BELL" - it didn't matter... we still got in trouble when we got caught doing it. The stores would do little stake outs and try and set traps... it felt like a game to me until the police got involved...

so for a while we ran from store workers... and before long we were running from the police.

The way we would do it, was often we would send teams out to do it... and I remember that I was in the second round, so I didn't go ring the first time, but everything went really bad for them, Kroger had been waiting for my friends and when they rang the bell police cars came pulling out... and my friends scattered and I had gotten a message that one of them was hiding in a tree a few blocks from Kroger... and as we were walking to go find them, the police came up to me... and I wasn't there when they

rang... but they were asking me if I had seen anyone running... and they told me that people were doing this “bell ringing thing” and apparently, even though the signs tell us to ring them... we aren’t supposed to actually ring them. They made it rather clear to me “when we catch them, there will be consequences.”

And somewhere in that book of laws, IF it weren’t already written... someone after that summer definitely wrote something about ringing the bells behind those stores.

But what Paul does here is he takes us all the way back to a time when THERE WAS NO LAW.

He says it like this: “sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.”

This line right here, it is Romans 5:13 - will be our central theme for today’s message.

Sin existed even before it was written into tablets that it was sin... right and wrong existed EVEN BEFORE right and wrong were spelled out clearly for us in a way that made it obvious.

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Have you ever been given a rule... something that you were told you have to make sure you DON’T DO? naturally... of course - the natural human instinct is going to be to WANT TO DO THAT THING... and that leads some people to BREAKING THE RULE... and it leads others (people who are more like me probably) to figuring out a way that they can get as close to breaking it as they can without breaking it...

you know who I am talking about... the people who are the reason we have to make additional rules because they do things that we never even think of doing? Like, if there was a law about driving in a car with screaming kids, that cop would have definitely given me one. But because the screaming was so intense that HE FORGOT WHAT I EVEN DID... he went away not knowing what to do.

Paul in Romans 1 says that there are people who just invent new ways to be evil...

but the point here is that even though those things were wrong... there was no way to count it against someone before the law was in place.

Okay...now... in the beginning, though we did not have laws written on tablets yet... God did give man a very specific command... it would seem like a very simple command... “don’t eat from this tree... eat from that one instead - that one will give you life... this one will give you death and I would rather you live forever in this amazing garden with me so lets stay away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”

that was it... a rule... one command... with a punishment spelled out for what would happen IF they disobey.

Lets talk about the garden a bit...

One day we do hope to do an entire series on Genesis... at the very least through Genesis 1-11... the reason that I am SO fascinated with the story of the fall of man is because a lot of the conclusions that are made about what took place in the Garden are drawn from what writers OTHER THAN THE WRITER OF GENESIS say about it.

but It is likely that if you read Genesis 2 & 3 closely, removing everything that you ever had heard about it... you may get a very different understanding of the passage than maybe the one you thought was in there.

What it actually SAYS matters.

But it is also important that we understand WHAT THE WRITERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVED ABOUT ADAM... What they believed about the creation account, and what they interpreted that ancient story TO MEAN FOR THEM, and for us today.

There is a phrase I have said to you before, that the Rabbi’s would say, something along the lines of “God spoke - the rest is commentary” -

And the commentary is INCREDIBLY important... that is why we value conversations so much around here... because lots of people have lots of different sources and insights into what was going on during a particular time or in a particular persons life that would lead to them writing what they wrote. And diving into that can help us shape our lives around God's best for us.

The name "Adam" literally means humanity... which is very important to understand and we will return to this a few times... NOT because the story is ONLY a symbol for what all humanity has done... but because this story is ALSO a symbol for what all humanity has done.

Paul says it like this "ALL HAVE SINNED" - every single one of us has done what Adam did in one way or another.

But one question people ask is: do we need a historical Adam? Can we just all agree that all people have sinned, that we all are separate from God, and this story in the garden is a giant poem symbolizing the mistakes that we all make, as a way to explain the human condition?

and IF going JUST off of the Old Testament writings alone, then yes, you could potentially place it in a category of mere symbolism and poetry... because what you find in the Old Testament is that they don't say a whole lot about Adam throughout, but rather, you find a pattern that demonstrates the human condition and tendency to try and be their own god played out on repeat.

The pattern is something like this: there is chaos... God creates out of that chaos... God makes a covenant with his people and gives them a mission... then we, humankind... fail to do what God asked us to do... and then God shows some sort of grace and we do it all again. Its the story of Adam... its the story of Noah... its the story of Israel and King David...

So when read in isolation from the New Testament, it is possible that you could draw that conclusion.

But the New Testament writers talk about Adam quite often, and they always refer to him as an actual man... not ONLY an image or

representative of man. In fact Luke's genealogy of Jesus actually dates all the way back to ADAM.

So there is no doubt that the writers of the Bible believe that Adam, a physical Adam... holds a place in history...

So I would offer to you that the story is SO powerful BECAUSE it is not only viewed as something that happened, but IS ALSO TELLING US A LOT ABOUT WHO WE ARE... and why we do the things that we do. It is so easy to blame Adam for all of our problems, when in reality... though Adam IS ADAM... though he did make the mistakes that he did... ADAM IS ALSO US.

If I were in the garden that day, and God told me that I could have anything besides the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... as much as I would love to believe that I would have just set up a tent on the other side of the garden and ate every meal from the tree of life... I know that eventually my curiosity would get the best of me, and I would have done the same thing.

But eating a piece of fruit SEEMS LIKE an incredibly insignificant crime to associate the destruction of humanity too.

Which is likely why it was not the centerpiece for a lot of early Jewish culture and literature the way that the story of Abraham or the story of the Exodus were...

But the way that Paul writes about Adam here in Romans 5, which is probably the most descriptive set of scriptures that we get about the significance of what happened in the garden in regards to our relationship with God and ultimately our eternity... what Paul says definitely implies that Paul has realized that what happened in Genesis IS A BIGGER DEAL THAN PEOPLE HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN IT CREDIT.

What you will notice in Romans 5, is it is incredibly consistent with Romans 1-4... it is not meant to be read in isolation, but it is meant to be a continuation.

Romans up to this point has been EXTREME... and it gets by no means "less extreme" here... Romans 1 gives us the Gospel, then when we get to 1:18 we get the clearest picture in all of the Bible for HOW ALL... and ALL



is an incredibly key word here... ALL... are guilty. There is not one person who does not fall on the lists in Romans 1 and the early part of Romans 2. Carrying it through chapter 3, Paul uses language that begins speaking of the Gentiles... as "they" - then in chapter 2, he points it a bit more directly, using language like "you" and in chapter 3 he makes it even more personal by saying "WE" - them... you... us... me... ALL. ARE. GUILTY.

But then, at the end of chapter 3 and carried all the way through chapter 4, Paul builds the case of how, yes... ALL ARE GUILTY... all have sinned... all have fallen short of the GLORY of God... but ALL are justified SIMPLY by FAITH. And the example that Paul gives in chapter 4 is ABRAHAM.

If Abraham had been justified AFTER being circumcised, then he would have been no different than what everyone already thought it was... which was: if you do this, this and this... then God accepts you.

In Abraham's case... it was: God accepts you... SIMPLY BECAUSE OF YOUR FAITH... Simply because you believe that God can use a broken person like you... simply because you believe that God can resurrect the things that are dead, and breathe life into dry bones...

So the huge contrast so far in the book of Romans is this: EVERYONE IS GUILTY... but LUCKILY FOR EVERYONE... there is an answer... and the answer is the blood of Jesus Christ... because He is the ONLY ONE who was NOT guilty. He is the ONLY ONE who never sinned, not even one time.

But here is the catch: it is either by grace, or it isn't. And if it is by grace through faith... THEN IT HAS TO ALWAYS BE BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH. Because ultimately, no matter how hard you try... you will find yourself back on that list after not too long...

Abraham found himself back on the list just a paragraph after God made the covenant with him in Genesis 15 and 16. It is just human nature... we all sin.

So in following that train of thought, Paul now takes us back to the beginning... to show us what Adam did... what we inherited because of Adam, and, in the same way that He does in Romans 3 and 4... He shows us HOW JESUS DEALT WITH THE ADAM PROBLEM... but even before

that, though not absent of the consequences... God ultimately showed Adam grace too.

but in order to see that, you need to grasp a few things about the story of Genesis 2 and 3.

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The fall... Genesis 3... what happened?

We talked about this briefly when we were in our section on Romans 1 talking about the exchange... we had to lay that framework there to explain what is going on in Romans 1, but now we can look at it a little more thoroughly here in Romans 5...

Because the concept of Romans 5, in a nutshell is this: we were created for lives like the ones they had in Genesis 1 and Genesis 2.

Then Genesis 3 happened, making it so we no longer could have Genesis 1 and 2.

But Jesus, in all of His glory, through His death on the cross and His resurrection, has **UNDONE** Genesis 3 making it possible that we can have Genesis 1 and 2 again. To **REDEEM SOMETHING** is to **PUT IT BACK...** and that has always been God's promise to His people... **I WILL Redeem you!** I will put you back to what you were created to be.

So understanding Genesis 1 and 2... what they had... and Genesis 3... what they did and what was lost... is crucial to understanding what Paul is saying in Romans 5.

What they had was glory... and a mandate to be the image bearers of God to the world. It is what was known as the cultural mandate... human beings... created in the image of God... being charged with the role of being God's ambassadors here on earth. It was essentially the first image we get for what we now call "The Kingdom of God" - people creating the world that God intended. A place that adequately represents Him.

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Now, there were two trees in the garden that are mentioned by name... the tree of life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which God told them DO NOT EAT THE FRUIT FROM THIS TREE.

And a crafty serpent convinces them to eat from the tree that God told them not to eat from. He convinces them that if they eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, what will happen will not be them LOSING SOMETHING... but rather, they will GAIN the knowledge that God has in navigating and determining good and evil.

and from everything that I can tell, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil gave Adam and Eve exactly what the serpent promised them that it would give them, and exactly what they wanted... it gave them the knowledge of good and evil... because that is what God says after the eat from it... He says “man is like us now, in knowing good and evil” -

“Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—”

and what it says right after that is that God then sent them out of the garden and placed an angel with a flaming sword TO GUARD THE TREE OF LIFE...

Why did God have to protect them from eating of the tree of life after they ate of the knowledge of good and evil? - well, it says it right there... if he reaches out and takes the tree of life... HE WILL LIVE FOREVER... Forever with this new lens by which to view the world through, in which WE DETERMINE WHAT IS GOOD, AND WHAT IS EVIL.

The reason that THAT is such a big problem, is that WE WEREN'T CREATED FOR THAT. We obviously don't know what to do with it. In the garden, right away... the very next thing that happens after they eat is they get hit with an emotion that they never had before... do you know what it was? It was shame.

Because when they looked at each other, and they both were naked... suddenly, that felt wrong to them. And right away as they looked at each other they saw something that felt as if it shouldn't be that way... and when they realized that they themselves were the same way, they were

ashamed. THERE WAS NO LAW TELLING THEM NOT TO BE NAKED. They didn't need a law. They had the knowledge to navigate that all on their own.

They hear God coming... and suddenly, in navigating right and wrong, they realized "we did the wrong thing" - so they hid.

But we were created FOR GLORY... that was what we had before they ate... We weren't created to look at another human being and think "that's not as it should be" it is a LOT to sort out...

Think about this... it is one of the things that makes God, God, and us... us.

God, by his very nature is LOVE. And what do we know about love? Love is patient and kind...

love is not irritable or resentful.

it doesn't rejoice at wrongdoing but it rejoices in the truth

believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...

love never ends.

So love can see something in someone else that is wrong... and it doesn't rejoice at that thing, but it also endures it... it keeps believing in that person...

it is knowledge that causes irritation. You see something... someone does something and you ask them to do it another way... and they just can't get it... and man, every time you see that, it gets under your skin... you are irritated...

true love can overcome that... and as humans we have to work for it, that is why when you get married, you make a covenant... that you will always err on the side of love even when that knowledge of the other person kicks into high gear and you have a thousand reasons to be irritated at them... frustrated with them... angry at them. We are HUMAN, and that is the NATURAL RESPONSE to KNOWLEDGE.

but God is love by nature and so HE CAN HANDLE THE THINGS IN US THAT ARE ANNOYING. HE CAN HANDLE THE THINGS IN US THAT ARE EVIL and He just keeps on being love!

Most people focus on the garden story asking the question that I asked you a few minutes ago... WHAT WAS LOST?

and don't get me wrong... things were lost. ultimately Adam lost his life because of what he did... ultimately all of us now live in a world where death reigns and finds everybody...

but to me, when I read the story, I think that at least as big of a point as "what was lost?" is the question "what was gained?" - what was gained that wasn't supposed to be ours...

and the answer is knowledge.

But what it ultimately was... was the very first exchange. From the very beginning of this series, we have talked about sin... and about how sin IS A PROBLEM... but the sins that we commit are not the root of the problem they are merely the natural result of what happens when our lives are filled with ungodliness and injustice.

We said it like this: our worlds collapse when we remove God from them.

Now... think about what Adam did... He essentially told God, by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil - "God, I want to determine good and evil from now on - I don't need you to do that for me" - HE EXCHANGED. and Paul says that sin came into the world through this one man...

Now... Sin is, by definition - "to miss the mark" - it means that you have a goal... a target that you know you are supposed to hit... or in the case of the Bible and our cultural mandate and the great commandment and the great commission... a target that you were created to hit... and you just don't. Adam... you were created to eat from the tree of life... but you missed it. Instead you ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

We talked about this earlier in the series... by the time we get to Romans, Paul actually describes it as something that has a power over people... its a power... its not just an action...

and according to Paul, this power... sin... this thing that seems to loom over humankind... entered the world through Adam.

But watch this... the word "sin" doesn't exist in Genesis 1, 2, or 3.

The very first time that the word "sin" shows up in the Bible is Genesis 4. It is after the creation account, and it is after the account of the fall. It is spoken by God to Adam's son Cain, who was incredibly frustrated with his own brother whom he felt was receiving more favor from God than he was.

Listen... this story really shows us just what Adam opened up for us with this knowledge of good and evil thing...

Cain is dealing with all sorts of emotions that HE IS NOT EQUIPPED TO HANDLE.. jealousy... frustration... anger... self worth issues... feeling like God loves his brother more than him... AND HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT...

and God *recognizes* this... and He even tries to intervene... just like He did with Cain's Father... when He warned Him YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL... just not this one tree... don't let this one tree catch your eye... because whatever your eye hooks to, multiplies...

God steps in with Cain,

And God tells him "sin is crouching at the door" - you need to get a handle on this... BECAUSE YOU CAN. Its desire is contrary to you... its not in your best interest... if you give into it, it will destroy you... but even now... even after the Garden... you still have the ability to rule over it...

This is really important - God never, ever, ever gave up on us. Even now that we have to navigate good and evil on our own... HE STILL SHOWS UP... and gives us a boost... He still tries to walk Cain through how to deal with this...

now... we have taught on this verse before... but reading it in light of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil it has even more significance to me... we have taught before how, the fact that God says "sin is crouching" - it is saying that sin is posturing itself in such a way that you don't know it is there... if you look out the hole in the door, you won't see it because its crouching (these are the earliest images we get of sin)... but when you open the door, it pounces.

It is subtle. Until it explodes. You don't see it coming... until it has ensnared you... you don't know its just outside on your porch... until you open the door and let it in.

That is why I find it ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING that the story of the entire fall of humanity would be on account of a piece of fruit.

For Cain... sin was crouching... it made itself look small... like it was no big deal... like it was something that Cain could get away with and nobody would really notice... and despite the warning from God... sin did rule over Him... and he murdered his own brother.

and this is the world that Adam gave us... one where a Father now has to look at his son who is still alive... and all he will ever be able to see is the son who is not here anymore... and even though there was not a law in place yet... there still was a knowledge... a knowledge that "IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GO THAT WAY" -

and as he grows in that knowledge...he becomes harder on himself... because when your child falls... you blame yourself... and you feel like a failure... and every day is a reminder.

This is the world that Adam gave us...

a world where people hold grudges against each other, because THEY KNOW WHAT OTHERS HAVE DONE TO THEM... and what others have done to the people that they love... and sometimes the pain is so real... that no-one blames you for holding on to it...

but those are the worst times... because if the offense against you seems big enough, your bitterness will feel justified... it will feel small... it will feel

like “I can hang on to this thing... I can eat this fruit... I can open this door.” - but in the end it will kill.

but what is so incredible about the cross of Jesus Christ is that He wants to take that burden off of you... because honestly... as much as you may think you need to carry it... IT IS TOO HEAVY FOR YOU.

But the longer you carry it the harder it becomes to let go... because it SHAPES YOU.

and when you get into the business of determining right and wrong... you very quickly will find yourself building a worldview in which the people who you deem to be “wrong” are somehow the enemy...

if there is one thing I want to try and be extremely aware of it, it is that... because we can think we are fighting injustice when really we are spreading it... and as long as we think that we have a hold on what is right and what is wrong... and we believe that we somehow are God’s chosen vessels to make those judgments...

we run the risk of being on the wrong side of the very thing we are fighting for.

The first word Paul uses to describe Adam is “sin” - he says “sin entered the world through one man, and death entered it through sin” but then the second word that Paul uses, very intentionally... to describe what Adam did IS TRANSGRESSION.

and this is going to be very crucial if we are going to understand what we will talk about next week. Because what Adam did was a breaking of trust with God and it affected everyone, everywhere for all time.

and it initiated a world in which now death reigns...

now, because of one man... all men (and all women) have to die... life on this earth in the body that you have right now... that thing is temporary, and life is a vapor.

and all of that makes this last line a bit peculiar... because Paul says



“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.”

Why was Adam a TYPE of the one to come?

This is important. The LIKENESS OF ADAM AND CHRIST begins AND ends at the range of impact that they have had on our world.

Jesus was not like Adam. Jesus never sinned. Jesus always did what the Father asked... Jesus laid down His life for the sake of others...

But the thing that makes them the same is the range in which their influence reaches... The arms of the grace of God, through Jesus Christ reach to the ends of the earth... they reach even the most broken people...

and in the same way that because of Adam, everyone now has to die... because of Jesus Christ, everyone now has access to eternal life.

Nobody is excluded.

And eternal life is not just Heaven someday... its wholeness today. It means that you don't have to live broken anymore...

Today is a setup for what we get next week... because God deals with the problem of Adam... He deals with it once and for all... and we can spend our entire lives still living under the power of the Adam that couldn't even say no to a piece of fruit even when God told him it would cost him his life...

or we could submit our lives to the one who willingly LAID DOWN HIS LIFE, so that every single person could have the opportunity to be RECONCILED BACK TO God.

The Gospel is the declaration... the announcement that Jesus Christ has done what Adam couldn't... Adam was kicked out of the garden before he could eat from the tree of life... Jesus has come, himself, as the tree of life. The only door that leads to God.