
AMEN Bible Study 2025

“Jesus Changes Human History”

Romans 5:12-21
November 6, 2025

Introduction

- I. **In Adam, the Human Race is Worse Off than All Realize** (v.12-14)
 - A. **Logic of the Paragraph**
 - 1. SIN entered the World thru ONE MAN (Adam)
 - 2. DEATH entered the World thru SIN
 - 3. DEATH came to ALL MEN because, in fact, “ALL SINNED”
 - B. **What does “ALL SINNED” Mean?**
 - 1. Option #1 – All Sin in the same ways as Adam
 - 2. Option #2 – All Sinned, in and thru Adam’s Solitary Sin
 - 3. Paul hasn’t yet given us enough to answer
 - C. **Bottom Line: Apart from Christ...**
 - 1. All have sinned,
 - 2. All are rightly declared guilty
 - 3. All are rightly under the Reign of Death (v.14) and Sin (v.21)
 - 4. This isn’t solved by Self-Help, Medicine, or Technology
- II. **In CHRIST, Human Race Is Better Off than Most Realize** (v.15-17) (Stott, *Romans*, 155-156)
 - A. **NATURE of Christ’s Action Is Better** (v.15)
 - 1. Adam’s action is a single TRESPASS
 - 2. Christ’s action is an abounding GIFT of Grace
 - B. **PERSONAL EFFECT of Christ’s Action Is Better** (v.16)
 - 1. Adam’s Action results in CONDEMNATION; Christ’s Action results in JUSTIFICATION
 - 2. Adam’s Action is one, SINGLE, SOLITARY ACT of Sin
Christ’s Action is Cover (payment) for ACCUMULATED SINS
 - C. **COSMIC EFFECT of Christ’s Action is Better** (v.17)
 - 1. Adam’s Action => Reign of DEATH (cf. v.14,21)
 - 2. Christ’s Action => Reign of LIFE(??)
 - 3. Christ’s Action => God’s PEOPLE Reign in LIFE
 - a. John Stott: “[Jesus] delivers us from the rule of death so radically as to enable us to change places with *it* and rule over *it*....”

III. CHANGE in HISTORY through One Covenant Mechanism (v.18-21)

A. Evidence of One Covenantal Mechanism: “Just As...So Also” (v.18,19,21)

1. JUST AS Adam’s Single Sin result in condemnation/death for all in him,
So ALSO Jesus’s Righteousness results in justification/life for all in Him
 - a. Just as: Adam’s sin is imputed to us
 - b. So also: Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us
2. “All Sinned”???
 - a. not all people sinned *exactly* as Adam did (v.13-14)
 - b. yet, “Death Reigned” over all
 - c. 5 times Paul says – sin of one man brought judgment to all men (v.15-19)
 - d. logical inference: all sinned in and thru Adam’s single sin
3. “All Justified”???
 - a. The same covenant mechanism that makes us guilty in Adam’s Original Sin; also makes us righteous in Christ’s Original Righteousness

B. Human Living is, in part, a “Team Sport”

1. Team Sports
 - a. Every penalty is against the team
 - b. Every point is against the team
 - c. Every win & loss is experienced by the whole team
 - d. e.g. David and Goliath – each were “team” representatives (1 Sam. 17)
2. Martin Lloyd-Jones: “The whole story of the human race can be summed up in terms of what has happened because of Adam, and what has happened and will yet happen because of Christ.”

C. Historical Effect of the Gospel: Jesus is Saving the Human Race!

1. We are Not “Universalists”
2. But Unbelievers are cutting themselves off from the Human Race
3. There is a NEW RULE/REIGN – **The REIGN of GRACE**
 - a. It changes EVERYTHING...
 - b. Grace is the Ultimate Trojan Horse – The Gift that Conquers

Conclusion

“To an age which – in the shadow first of Alexander’s empire, and then of Rome’s – had become habituated to yearnings of a universal order, Paul was preaching a deity who recognized no borders, no divisions.... The fabric of things was rent, a new order of time had come into existence, and all that previously had served to separate people was now, as a consequence, dissolved. ‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.’ Only the world turned upside down could ever have sanctioned such an unprecedented, such a revolutionary, announcement.”

- Tom Holland, *Dominion*

AMEN Action Steps

“Jesus Changes Human History”

Romans 5:12-21

HEAR the Word

*“Open my eyes, that I might behold wondrous things out of your law.”
-Psalm 119:18*

1. Someone succinctly said: “We aren’t sinners because we sin. We sin because we’re sinners.” Answer why this is true, in light of what Paul is teaching in 5:12-21.
2. Try to be honest with yourself: Which part of my identity impacts me the most emotionally and motivationally: my job identity, my family identity, my racial identity, my political identity, my sexual identity, or my identity “in Christ”? If you’re feeling extra brave, ask your spouse or close friend(s) what they see you “obsess over” most.

PRACTICE the Word

*“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock”
-Matthew 7:24*

1. Who do you have more “in common with”: the unbelieving friend who agrees with you on every cultural and political issue most important to you; or the believing friend who disagrees with you on nearly every cultural and political issue most important to you? Why?
2. If Jesus is the one who has changed, is changing, and will change all of human history, why do we get SO fearful, SO angry, SO despairing; or conversely, SO hopeful, or SO excited, depending on who wins or loses political elections?

RETELL the Word

*“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”
-Mark 5:19*

1. How might the Gospel certainty of a changed human history enable us publicly to live and act more out of faith, hope and love in all situations, no matter how conflicted or scary?
2. How does being under the “reign of grace” begin to change how I value and respond to such things as: Success and Failure, Riches and Poverty, Strength and Weakness, Honor and Shame, Sickness and Health? How do I live and work among unbelievers differently as a result?