

EXTREME MAKEOVER: GOD EDITION

Monday, May 22

Reading: Romans 5:12-21

Romans 5:15 *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!*

One of my favorite shows was ABC's 'Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.' Each week Ty Pennington and his team would demolish the old house and build a new one (usually much bigger than the people actually needed). The show always ended with a montage of what their former house had looked like compared to their new home. This show gives a good illustration of what God wants to do with our lives. Romans 5:12-21 compares our old life as children of Adam with our new life in Christ.

ADAM brought death---CHRIST brought grace (5:12-15)

ADAM brought condemnation---Christ brought justification (5:16)

Through ADAM death reigned---Through CHRIST righteousness reigns in life (5:17)

ADAM's disobedience made many sinners---CHRIST's obedience makes many righteous (5:19)

Because of ADAM, sin reigned---Because of CHRIST, grace reigns (5:21)

The disobedience of Adam brought sin and death into the world. Humanity stands condemned before God. The obedience of Christ brought salvation and eternal life for all those who believe. Believers stand justified before God because of the blood of Christ.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. "How Much More." Three times Paul uses this phrase to describe the work of Christ on our behalf (5:15, 17, 20). The benefits gained by the obedience of Christ far outweigh what was lost through the disobedience of Adam. Believers have passed from death to life – from guilty sinners to clothed with the righteousness of Christ. We have 'much more' to live for! We have 'much more' power to live godly lives! Does your daily living look more like Christ or sinful humanity? Are you still caught in the chains of disobedience because you listen to your old sinful nature instead of Christ? Chapter 6 presents the power to demolish these chains and let God remake your life.
2. "Sin Entered the World Through One Man." The Creation and Fall accounts of Genesis 1-3 have been under attack for a long time. If Satan can destroy the divine origins of life, than he can cast doubt on God's gift of salvation as well. If the story of Adam and Eve is a myth like many people (even some Christians) believe, than this Romans passage makes no sense. If evolution is true and human beings evolved from lower life forms, than the whole case for sin falls apart. The sin of Adam is used throughout the Bible to explain the origin of sin and death. Were all these God-inspired authors lying? Were they simply using a myth to prove a point! The Apostle Paul presents the story of Adam as fact just as he presents the work of Christ as fact. If you take away Genesis 1-3 you will have a hard time explaining sin, death, and God's judgment. You will also be hard pressed to find a need for salvation because you don't know where sin came from! I will now get off this hobby horse. Thank you.