

Heart of the Gospel

Part 6 – Adam, Jesus, and You

Romans 5.12-21

Heart of the Gospel: in Christ, God has done for us what we could never do for ourselves

Terrible News (v.12-14)

- Adam -> Sin -> Death -> Everyone -> Sin -> Death
- Not simply imitating Adam (though we do)
- Inherited Sin: in a real and important way, we were present with Adam when he sinned

Two Parts:

- Inherited Corruption – in our natural state, we are spiritually bankrupt
 - We have a bent, inclination, and pattern of turning away from God and following our own desires, believing that sin is more satisfying than Jesus is
 - The corruption is profound and widespread and radical – we’re not as bad as we could be but we’re damaged from the roots upward, which means every part of my life is affected
 - It’s not fair! But it doesn’t have to be fair to be true
 - ILL: Male Pattern Baldness – I have to accept it and then figure out what I’m going to do about it
- Inherited Guilt – in our natural state, we are condemned by God
 - Eph. 2.3 – by nature children of wrath (not by action)
 - This is REALLY not fair! I’m being punished for another’s choice that happened a long time ago. I didn’t do it, Adam did!
 - ILL: Bracketology – “my team” lost
 - I wasn’t there, I didn’t play, I didn’t coach, but in some meaningful way, “I” still lost and all that goes along with that – emotions, social media, etc.
 - v.13-14 – For those who “weren’t there and didn’t know better”
 - Sin was in the world before the law but not counted as law-breaking
 - Death was in the world before the law because of sin (even though they weren’t “lawbreakers”)
- Bad news: we sin because we’re sinners
 - Jesus came to deal with both our sinful natures and sinful actions

Terrific News (v.15-21)

- Gift of Grace overcomes Guilt and Death (v.15)
- Justification overcomes Condemnation (v.16)
 - How much? One trespass brought condemnation but after many trespasses the gift brought justification
- Jesus' Reign overcomes Death's reign (v.17)
 - Better – we get to live under His reign and even reign with Him
- Obedience overcomes Disobedience (v.18-19)
 - His obedience was for and toward God
 - His obedience counts for me
 - Question of universalism: does “all” mean “all?” (cf. v.17)
- Grace overcomes Sin
 - Sin increased, but grace abounded
 - Sin brought death, grace brought eternal life

Questions for Discussion:

1. One of the many passages that you could turn to in order to understand the Bible's teaching about sin and how it incapacitates us is Ephesians 2.1-3. Read that passage and then reread Romans 5.12-21. What similarities do you see in how the passages describe and define sin and its effects? What differences are there? Now read Ephesians 2.4-10. What similarities and differences do you see about the Jesus' rescue of His people?
2. One of the struggles with a passage like this is that it holds a different worldview than western individualism. In what ways does this passage about a more connected sense of humanity? What are other biblical examples? What are other current examples from your life?
3. In the sermon, Trent argued that unless we understood how bad we are, we won't fully grasp how amazing Jesus is. How have you found this to be true in your life? What are other examples of “Unless I know _____ about me, I won't really see _____ about God?”
4. The terrific news of the Gospel and its effects are numerous. We listed four in the sermon. Which one stands out most to you? Why? Are you confused or do you have questions about any of them? Which one sounds most immediately like Good News to you? Why?