

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 5:18

Student Notes:

Verses 18-21: Paul's change to the format he has been using to contrast Adam and Christ: From the "not like" and "how much more" (a fortiori) to "just as" and "so also".

Paul emphasizes how each of them have affected human history by using three "pairs" of terms: "Trespass and Gift", "Condemnation and Justification, and Death and Life.

Verse 18: "Consequently, just as the result of one **trespass** was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men."

The immediate results of Adam's trespass, (previously expressed in verse 16): "Condemnation for all men". The word "trespass" points to Adam passing a marker. He crossed a "do not cross line" God had drawn for him.

Paul says it resulted in "condemnation for all men". Do we really believe that all humans have come under the condemnation of one man's willful decision?

Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones: "Look at yourself in Adam; though you had done nothing you were declared a sinner. Look at yourself in Christ; and see that, though you have done nothing, you are declared to be righteous."

The second half of verse 18: Good News -- "So also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men."

The first "... So also" of this passage. Just as Adam's willful disobedience brought condemnation to all men, Christ's "one act of righteousness" brought justification that brings life for all men.

- **The Descriptions:**

Adam's act: A trespass. Jesus' part: "*an act of righteousness*". Whereas Adam broke rank with God ... Christ did the opposite. He stayed true to God and created a path for those to follow.

A thought-packed statement: "He brought justification ... that brings life ... for all men".

Adam brought the forces of Sin and Death into human stream. He brought condemnation that passed among all humans. Christ, however, "brought justification".

- **The Effects:**

*"He brought justification ... **that brings life** ... for all men"*.

"He brought justification ... that brings life." A second parallel: Adam brought on condemnation that brought on death. Jesus brought justification that brings life.

What kind of life? In the Greek we have several kinds of life:

1. "Bios: the Greek word for physical life as in the life of the physical body. We get the English word, biology" from it. You can see this in Luke 8:14, where we read of, "...anxieties and riches and pleasure of this life."

2. Psuche: Refers to the psychological life of the human soul, that is, the mind, emotion, and will. It is where we get the word *psychology*. We find this word in Matthew 16:25: "For whoever wants to save his soul-life shall lose it."

3. “Zoe”: The Greek word refers to the uncreated, eternal life of God. It's the divine life that God alone possesses.

- John 1:4: “In Him was (Zoe) life, and the (Zoe) life was the light of men.”
- John 10:10: “I have come that they may have life and life in abundance.” The Greek sentence: “I have come that they may have Zoe and may have Zoe abundantly.”

Paul: “He brought justification ... that brings Zoe -- the God-kind of life ... for all men”.

The Scope:

*“He brought justification ... that brings life ... **for all men**”.*

The righteous act of Christ results in the potential for all humans to possess the God-kind of life that is being offered.

Dispelling the theory of unilateral universal salvation: Jesus' own warnings.

- Mark 16:16: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”
- John 3:16, 18: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.”

Next time, we will look at verses 19-21