

Mount Calvary Baptist Church
Lesson Title: What is the Verdict?
September 18, 2018
Romans 5:12-21

Theological Principle: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it.

Introduction

In what ways can the decisions of a few leaders change the lives of millions of people?

Share a time you were accused of doing wrong because of your association with a wrongdoer? Do you think it was fair?

Understanding the Text

- **The Corruption – Romans 5:12-14 (MSG)**

¹²You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. ¹³That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. ¹⁴Even those who didn't sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it.

What experiences have you had with death?

What fears or anticipation do you have about death?

What did Adam introduce into the world and pass on to his descendants?

What is the root cause of death?

Three options have been presented for how all sinned.

First: Romans 3:23 _____

Second: Romans 2:15 _____

Third: 1 Corinthians 15:22 _____

Paul's whole argument in this section of Romans is based on **headship**: Adam, as the head of the human race, sinned and God saw in Adam the whole human race as guilty. Conversely, the second Adam, Jesus Christ is the head of a new spiritual race. Christ did not sin, and God saw in Christ's innocence all who unite themselves to him by faith as likewise innocent. **Our being declared guilty in Adam is no more on the basis of our "sins" than being declared innocent in Christ is on the basis of our "not sins."** In both cases, headship is the cause. Those who think it unjust of God to lump them into Adam's sin might consider whether they should think it just for God to lump them into Christ's righteousness. Whether from Adam to Moses or from Moses to now, Paul says that the human race lost its peace with God as a result of guilt inherited from Adam. Thankfully, we were not left in that state; our peace with God has been won back for us by the second Adam, the explanation of which Paul now begins.

- **The Cure – Romans 5:15-17 9 (MSG)**

¹⁵ Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man's sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God's gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! ¹⁶ There's no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. ¹⁷ If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?

What came into the world through Jesus Christ?

What is God's solution to the inevitable problem of sin and death?)

- **The Closing – Romans 5:18-21 (MSG)**

¹⁸ Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! ¹⁹ One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right. ²⁰ All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn't, and doesn't, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call *grace*. When it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. ²¹ All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that's the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.

In what ways are the acts of Jesus and Adam similar?

What is the relationship between the amount of sin and grace in the world?

What effect did God's righteous law have on rebellious people?

What does sin in this world produce?

What does grace given by God to this world produce?

Apply the Text

In what ways can you thank God today for the grace He has bestowed on you? (be specific)

What can you do this week for unsaved friends still suffering from the consequences of sin?