

% **LIVING UNDER THE REIGN OF DEATH OR THE REIGN OF LIFE - Rom 5:12-17**

110319P

INTRODUCTION

1. Return to Rom 5. Our standing in grace, living in the climate of grace.
2. "Governed" - authority & power to rule, to compel compliance. God's grace in Jesus governs our lives, authorizes us to live Christian life.
3. Rom 5:1-11 = 1st ½ of chpt. v12-21 = 2nd ½ of chpt.

1st: Adam and the Reign of Sin and Death - v12-14

1. Gospel effects 2 communities - in Adam or Christ: legally & livingly
2. v12 - *Therefore* - continuation from v1-11. An incomplete sentence --
 - i. All in Adam: legal & living solidarity w/ his sin, transgression, offense, condemnation: reign of death
 - ii. All in Christ: legal & living solidarity w/ His obed, righteousness, justification [gift of righteousness] - reign of grace & life
 - iii. Men were under *the reign of death* before Moses & the Law - why? B/c of humanity's legal & living solidarity w/ Adam.
 - a. *sin entered the world thru one man* [Adam] & *death* entered world *thru sin, and so* [by this means] *death spread to all men* [in Adam] - *b/c all sinned* - dash.
 - b. How have *all sinned*? Either all men imitate Adam's behavior - or - all men are united to Adam & sinned when he sinned.
3. v13-14 argues "original sin". Even w/o Law, wh/ defines & condemns sin, men yet died - why? B/c *all sinned* - in union w/ Adam [v15].
 - i. Solidarity, covenant headship. As men are condemned b/c of what Adam did, so we are justified b/c of what Jesus did.
 - ii. Principle of the many being in legal solidarity w/ their 1 representative
 - a. Levi paid tithes to Melchiz? He was in Ab's loins [Hb 7:9f].
 - b. Achan stole: *Israel has sinned* [Josh 7:11]. 36 Israelites died.
 - c. Natural parentage -> citizenship, legal status of father.
 - d. Sac'al system - representative curse/sin-bearer. Cross as sac.
 - e. Representative headship - gospel: Jesus lived, died & rose *for us!*
4. Why did men die before there was Law - b/c *all sinned* in Adam's sin.
5. v14 - Adam is a *type* of Jesus - *Him who was to come* = antitype. Same legal principles are operative.

2nd: Christ and the Reign of Life - v15-17

1. Paul now contrasts Adam w/ Jesus: 2 headships similarities & differences.
2. v15 - Adam is *1 man* [v12]; Jesus is *the 1 Man*. Men are *the many*.
 - i. Men in Christ - *the gift - grace* - v17 *the gift of righteousness*. *Not like the transgression* - Adam's selfish disobey - Jesus self-sac love.
 - ii. Redemption accomplished by Christ exceeds effects of Adam's fall.
3. v16 - contrasts immediate results of Adam's sin & Jesus' obedience on *the many*: *condemnation* or *free gift of justification*.
4. v17 - contrast ultimate results - reign of death or reign of life [we reign!]
 - i. Contrast of reign of death & reign of life - this age & age to come.
 - ii. Paul's *much more & abundance* -> reign of *those who receive grace*.

Applic #1: Discern Satan's Strategy: Deny the Creation & the Fall

1. 1T 4:1-5 strategy: disconnect man from Creator & confuse re: goodness of creation. Deny historicity of early chpts in Gn.
2. Evolution; w/o God in their thots - not think in terms of sin, judgment - see death as smthg "natural" - not enemy now conquered by Jesus.
3. W/o docts of creation & fall, Satan removes points of reference by wh/ to understand the gospel.

Applic #2: Discern the Binary Nature of Mankind

1. All men are either in Adam or in Christ. Are you in Adam or in Christ?
2. We are not to uproot *tares* lest we destroy the *wheat* [Mat 13:29]. Yet we must be discerning w/o being judgmental.
3. 2 seeds of woman & serpent have polar opposite identities & destinies. Our unconverted family & friends need to see that there is a real difference between life in Christ & death in Adam.