

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 3

No 9

God's Three Gifts.

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:12-21

Today's passage is seen by some as the very heart of this 'handbook' on God's Provision. Paul has told us about those who sin and he makes it clear that our continuing in our sin will result in our death. *Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things, but also approve of those who practice them.* Romans 1:32NIV. Why is sin inevitable to human experience? Paul now tells us how death dealing sin came to every person on earth, and again tells us the good news, how God has provided the answer for all those who trust Him.

This passage has one central message. It is found in Romans 5:12 which Paul left unfinished expecting us to add it, which is, "... so also by one man grace and life entered" (Ellicott). The remaining verses explain and expand that concept. It is so important that we understand it. C J Ellicott in his commentary gives this summary table (here modified). You will see that this passage consists of similarities and opposites. Can you find the relevant verses in your Bible?

Persons:	One Man, Adam	One Man, Christ
Action:	One Disobedience	One Obedience
Nature:	One Trespass of God's law	One Offering for Sin
Those Affected:	One Race, All mankind	One Redeemed People
Immediate Effect:	One Nature - Sinful	One Act of Righteousness
Ultimate Effect:	Death as Punishment	Life Offered as a Gift

First, Do you find it strange that One Man can represent so many?

We ought not. It is common practice today, as with a solicitor, trustee, guardian, Member of Parliament, etc. The difference is that these are elected or hired or appointed. We have no say whether we want to be represented by Adam. However there are other examples where we have no say; our parentage, our nationality, social and economic status and things like body shape, likelihood to some disease, etc. These are more like our position in Adam. We received our genetic make up without option from our parents, and grandparents. We received our sinful nature from them too, and they from their parents and so

on. It all had to start somewhere! And the Bible tells us that somewhere is Adam, the first man.

Just as there was One Man, Adam, so God sent One Man, Jesus Christ as our representative sin bearer.

Now this is good news. Even as in Adam all die, so in Christ all are made alive! Corinthians 15:22. This is what is meant by Adam being a pattern, or a type; one thing is like another in one or more ways. Note the representative nature of the man Adam and of the man Jesus; because they are dissimilar in most other ways, as in the above table.

Adam's Sin and Ours.

Adam's sin was that he deliberately broke God's command. See 1Timothy 2:14 and Genesis 3:17. This is referred to as 'the similitude of Adam's sin' v14AV. After the law was given through Moses those who are involved in it also are subject to it, just like Adam. God does not judge any one person by something of which they have no knowledge. See v13 and also Romans 1:19&20.

However, this does not mean that people are not accountable for their actions. Paul says that all men prior to Moses still died, not just Adam. All are judged on the basis of what they know. They could not and did not keep the standard they knew was required of them as moral beings.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and beyond cure. Who can understand it. I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind to reward each man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve. Jeremiah 17:9&10NIV.

The reason for this is that they were sinful in their hearts. They inherited their nature from their parents. We all do.

Behold I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me. Psalm 51:5AV

The choice is ours.

Just Because we were born in sin, we do not have to stay that way! The concept of choice is important because although we inherited our sinful nature from our forebears, we can deal with

the resultant sin by accepting God's gift. Adam had a choice - he chose to disobey God with devastating consequences. We are also faced with a choice - we may choose to accept God's offer of pardon, cleansing, right standing and holy living by accepting the offer of the work of His Son Jesus Christ upon the cross of Calvary.

God's three gifts.

When we receive God's bountiful gift of Jesus Christ there are three other gifts that come to us too. There is:

The Gift of Forgiveness of Our Trespasses v15. John says that if we confess our sins God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins. Note this is plural, not a sin, but all our sinning. The word confess means to agree. When we agree with God's summation of our sinful nature, His forgiveness flows to cover all our erring way, past, present and future as part of His gift to us.

The Gift of being Justified v16. Not only does God forgive our many offences but He declares us righteous by according to us the righteousness that belongs to the One who took our sin. Despite our shortcomings God sees us as perfectly righteous.

The Gift of Righteousness v17 This means that we do not need to be defeated as we were before. God will give us a power we did not formerly have to live lives pleasing to Him. We can be victorious over sin and defeat and death. This is His gift to us. We will learn more about what this means as we study Romans 6:7 & 8.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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