

Romans: Lesson 8

Lesson Text: Romans 5:12-21

Assignment: Read the lesson text (at least) 3-5 times prior to class; if possible, reference multiple translations. Questions are provided below as an additional aid to prepare for class discussion.

Study Guide Questions:

1. Read Genesis 2:15-3:24. What were the consequences of Adam and Eve's sins (Gen 2:16-17, 3:16-19, 22-24)? Do others experience any of these consequences?
2. Is physical death the consequence of an individual's own sins or of the presence of sin in this physical world (or both)? Has every person who has been guilty of sin experienced death as a consequence (cf. Gen. 5:21-24, 2 Ki 2:11-12, Rom. 3:23)? Have all who have died been guilty of sin (1 Pet. 1:18-19, 2:22, Heb. 4:15)? What is necessary for death to end (1 Cor. 15:24-26, cf. Acts 2:34-35)?
3. In what way was the transgression of Adam unlike the sinning of others? What did Adam specifically have with God (Gen. 2:16-17, Hosea 6:7)?
4. Is Paul comparing or contrasting Adam's trespass and the "free gift" (5:15)? In what primary way is the free gift different than the trespass? (Note, this characteristic of the free gift is the main point of this section of verses)
5. Consider 5:18-19. Note that these verses do not describe who will be justified and made righteous, only how righteousness is possible. Paul has previously stated who will be made righteous (3:21-22, 4:13, 16, 22-24, 5:1). How then should we understand the statement that "one trespass led to condemnation?" Is he declaring that all are automatically condemned or describing how condemnation became possible?
6. Compare 5:12-21 with 1 Cor. 14:20-26.