

Romans 5:12-21

This portion returns to the theme of the sinfulness of all men which the epistle left off in 3:21. But here it speaks of the sin we all inherit from Adam, the first man.

Adam has surprisingly few mentions in scripture: Only once is he named in the Old Testament after the book of Genesis and only eight times at all in the New Testament. But we all know the happy life he and Eve were to lead in the garden of Eden before they sinned and were expelled.

We must never think, however, that Christ came to restore mankind to Adam's state, to something like the garden of Eden. Just as Zacchaeus promised (per the law) to restore fourfold what he had taken, the Lord gives us blessings in Christ far beyond those than Adam forfeited. Here's how F. W. Grant compares the believer to Adam before the fall:

1. As to position, we are "in Christ" a "new creation, old things passed away, and all things become new." As to what we were as men in the flesh, "dead with Christ, " "our old man crucified with Him," so that we are "not in the flesh," not "living (alive) in the world," not "of" it — carnal, if we "walk as men." To give us boldness in the day of judgment, we are told that "as Christ is, so are we," even "in this world." Hence, "there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus," for we are "accepted in the Beloved," and already "seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Questions:

1. What is the evidence that all men have inherited sin from Adam?
2. How do we know sin was in the world, even before the law made it apparent?
3. What are the "gift" and "trespass" of verse 15?

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Thus the position of men in the world is completely passed away, and we are in a new place before God, as and what Christ is; "made the righteousness of God in Him."

*2. As to **nature**, we are "born again," "born of God," "partakers of the Divine nature," "have eternal life abiding in us," that eternal life that was in the Son of God through the back eternity, therefore truly "eternal," not mere existence or Adamic life. And though we carry the old nature, the flesh, still about with us, it is only as an enemy, and to be destroyed,*

*3. As to **inheritance**, "we are heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ," begotten to "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us," where Christ is, in the "mansions of a Father's house," that we may be "ever with the Lord."*

I would add one more: As to **knowledge**, we have more of the mind of God than Adam, even though he walked with Him on the earth. We know the blessed gospel as only the saved of Christ can, the "things into which angels long to look." And we will have an eternity in His presence: "Then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."

Adam was in a state of *innocence*. We are in a far better state of *grace*.

4. What is “much more” in verse 15?

5. What is “much more” in verse 17?

6. Does verse 18 support “universalism”: the belief that all people are saved and destined for heaven?

7. Verse 19 says we are made righteous through Jesus Christ’s obedience. Can you find any other verses that praise Him for His obedience to the father?

8. In verse 20, what purpose was served by the trespass (or offence) increasing by the introduction of the law? (You might also consider Rom. 7:13.)