

## Christ Greater than Adam

### *Romans 5: 15-21*

Intro:

This morning we considered verses 12-14

Under the heading, "Original Sin"

Sin, and its consequences exist because of the transgression of Adam.

This has left humanity in a state of sinfulness and under the wrath of God.

Illus:

A Man who is bitten by a poisonous snake has no hope unless he can quickly find the Serum or Antidote that will overcome the poison in his veins.

Adam, by his sin, left mankind without any possibility of life. If Christ had not come we would have perished eternally for our sins!

In our verses before us this evening we see not only did Christ provide the Antidote but has dealt so profoundly with our state that we are in a far greater place from which we fell in our father Adam.

Verses 15-19 repeats five times the superior nature of Christ's work when compared to Adam!

Calvin:

*"there is a greater measure of grace procured by Christ, than of condemnation introduced by the first man."*

He goes on to say:

*"It may indeed be justly inferred, that since the fall of Adam had such an effect as to produce the ruin of many, much more efficacious is the grace of God to the benefit of many; inasmuch as it is admitted, that **Christ is much more powerful to save, than Adam was to destroy.**"*

Further he says:

*"but as the sin of Adam has destroyed many, he draws this conclusion, — that the righteousness of Christ will be no less efficacious to save many."*

Consider:

Arminianism makes the work of Christ less effective than Adam's!

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### **1} The Grace of Christ is Greater than the Offence of Adam**

Rom 5:15 But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

Note;

How the offence and the free gift {Grace} are the same yet different!

They are the same in that they are based on the work of one man.

They are different in their effects!

One is Death. The other is Abundant Life!

Also the one overcomes the other!!!

Calvin:

*“Grace is properly set in opposition to offense; the gift which proceeds from grace, to death. Hence grace means the free goodness of God or gratuitous love, of which he has given us a proof in Christ, that he might relieve our misery”*

He goes on to say:

*“We hence see how absurdly the schoolmen have defined grace, who have taught that it is nothing else but a quality infused into the hearts of men: for grace, properly speaking, is in God; and what is in us is the effect of grace.”*

## **2} The Justification of Christ is Greater than the Condemnation of Adam**

Rom 5:16 And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.

Illus:

When we broke crystal vase it smashed into many pieces.

Imagine being able to put it back together and remove all signs of the breaks and make it appear and to be even more beautiful!

This is what Christ has done for us!!

Calvin:

*“This is especially an explanation of what he had said before, — that by one offense guilt issued in the condemnation of us all, but that grace, or rather the gratuitous gift, is efficacious to our justification from many offenses.*

*It is indeed an expansion of what the last verse contains; for he had not hitherto expressed, how or in what respect Christ excelled Adam.*

*This difference being settled, it appears evident, that their opinion is impious, who have taught that we recover nothing else by Christ but a freedom from original sin, or the corruption derived from Adam.”*

Read Isaiah 1: 18

Acts 13: 38-39

1 Cor. 6: 9-11

## **3} The Life of Christ is Greater than the Death of Adam**

Rom 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Note;

We were servants of Death under Adam!

Now we are Reigning in Life by Jesus Christ!

Rev. 1: 5-6

Rev. 5: 9-10

Note 2;

Q What is it that has placed us in this wonderful place?

**“abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness”**

Not just some grace but ABUNDANCE!!!  
“gift” something given that is unearned!!

#### **4} The Righteousness of Christ is Greater than the Offence of Adam**

Rom 5:18 Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

Geneva Notes:

*“Therefore, to be short, as by one man's offence the guiltiness came on all men to make them subject to death, so on the opposite side, the righteousness of Christ, which by God's mercy is imputed to all believers, justifies them, that they may become partakers of everlasting life.”*

#### **5} The Obedience of Christ is Greater than the Disobedience of Adam**

Rom 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Calvin:

*“This is no tautology, but a necessary explanation of the former verse. For he shows that we are guilty through the offense of one man, in such a manner as not to be ourselves innocent.”*

The remaining two verses further exemplify what has been said in the former verses.

Read Romans 5: 20-21

May God bless his word to our souls!

Amen!