

8,26,21 Rom. 5:12 Through One Man

Let's begin by reading through the passage we'll be looking at tonight:

(Rom. 5:12) “. . . through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin.”

To really understand the phrase, “*Through one man sin entered the world . . .*” we need to see the results of that ‘entrance of sin’.

I found this quote in a book by Sidlow Baxter; the book isn't related to Romans specifically; but this section definitely addresses the principle found in Rom. 5;

“(Through Adam's sin) billions of human beings were cheated of immortal paradise, alienated from God, spiritually dead, morally leprous, physically diseased and dying: A whole world of intelligent creatures in chains of sin which drag them, million after million, into a gaping ravenous grave; a world revolving through six millenniums of hatred, violence, vanity, rivalry, war, sickness, weeping and beauty spoiled by vicious ugliness.

“Besides this, the atmosphere which surrounds our earth is at present infested by polluting demon spirits, who exercise invisible pressures upon men and through government, to deceive and degrade still further the race to which God had given such an exalted beginning. Even in those heavenly spheres, the nature and extent of which are beyond our imagination, there is a widespread insurrection involving a myriad of once-immaculate but now hate-ridden angels.

“Think of this monstrous, ages-long, hell-creating upheaval in God's universe, a titanic agony conceived and master-minded by the infidel Lucifer; think of it all, and then ponder 1 Jn. 3:8; ‘The Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil.’

“In the ultimate analysis the two great moral powers in the universe are love and hate. What will love not suffer? What will hate not do? What can love not achieve? What can hate not perpetuate? Of the two, love is the stronger. Calvary has settled that forever.”

So, what exactly happened with Adam and Eve? How did sin enter through them and what are implications for us now?

Everything began with Lucifer sowing *doubt* about God in Eve “Has God really said?” He then followed it up with a lie, “You won’t die”. He then attacked God’s character, “God knows that your eyes will be opened”. Then he added pride, “You will be as God, knowing good and evil”.

As I went through that, I’m sure you could see that Satan’s approach hasn’t changed over the centuries. The terms and forms may have changed, but not the appeal.

As one author put it; “Disobedience to God was so skillfully camouflaged that it seemed something to be desired as a way to make one wise.”

And, as we know from experience, this approach works on believers as well as unbelievers.

Put us under pressure and introduce doubt. Once the enemy sees that this has shaken us, he can add the lie, “God doesn’t love you, let alone like you”, This not only throws us off balance, but prepares us for Satan’s attack on God’s character, “He said He wouldn’t forsake you, but He has.”

So, at this point, the enemy has prepared us for an alternative to this God Who won’t keep His promises. Pride and independence from the Lord, is the next logical step.

And now we’re into the Christian religion. All the churches and movements that appeal to our vanity and desire for health and wealth – telling us what we want to hear, making us feel good about ourselves, more than feeling good about God.

As we saw earlier, God’s solution is the Cross. When we truly understand the humiliation of the Son of God on our behalf, our focus on self quickly fades.

There are several ways that the Cross deals with all the problems we’ve looked it:

First, it exposes Satan for who he is.

(Col. 2:15) “. . . having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them publicly . . .”

That ‘public showing’ not only revealed their defeat, but it also exposed them for what they are.

The Cross also exposes the flesh in us, but that’s chapter seven.

Second, the Cross exposes sin in three ways:

- 1) It shows how our sin affected God. It hurts Him to the point of the pain and shame of the crucifixion of His Son.
- 2) It shows us that this is the *kind* of God sin hurts. He's the kind of God whose heart is laid bare in the sacrifice of the Son of Man.
- 3) This is the real nature of sin. It takes the humanity of a sinless and all-loving Savior and mocks Him, scourges Him, and nails Him to a tree in shame and then gloats over his suffering.

God allowed it, but it was Satan that engineered it. We can now see clearly what he is like and what sin, which has its source in him, is like.

Sin is much more than simply our 'imperfections' – it's the fruit of compromise and it's fellowship with demons.

Obviously, Satan is still allowed to be very active in this world, because the story of humanity is not completely written.

Since Satan has no response to the Cross, his goal now is to keep people from 'seeing' it.

(2 Cor. 4:3-4) "If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."

By the time we get to Revelation 12:9 we can see how successful the enemy has been; he "deceives the whole inhabited earth".

But in Rev. 7:9 we see this, "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

The deception of the inhabited earth is the outcome of the *first Adam* turning Satan loose on the world.

The salvation of a great multitude is the outcome of the *last Adam* redeeming us.

I'm going to share this quote from one of Spark's publications to tie this together;

“Between the Divine conception (of what Man was to be) and its ultimate realization there is all the tragedy of human disruption, and all the glory of Divine grace in redemption. What is before us here is to say something of the nature of that disruption as to man's own being, and therefore to see what conformity to the image of God's Son means as to the overcoming of that disrupted state. It is the question of man's own person, and what kind of person can alone inherit the kingdom of God.

“For such a high and glorious destiny, not only a spiritual or moral state is required, but a certain type or species of being. As the crawling caterpillar or silkworm has to spin its shroud and yield that form of life in order to awaken in a new order and break through into a new world as a beautiful moth or butterfly, so has man now to pass out of one order and be constituted anew with faculties and capacities for a higher order.

“Man, according to God's mind, and according to a dim and intangible sense in himself, is of a universal character, with universal interests. But something has happened which, on the one hand, makes the realization of God's intentions impossible in man as he now is, and on the other hand, causes man to persist in a vain effort to achieve such realization.

“This terrible contradiction of things at the center of the universe is the occasion of a new intervention on the part of God in the person of His Son. This intervention has several features. In Christ we see what a man is according to God's mind. (Through the Cross) God secures the removal of the man that is *not* so according to Himself; He brings in the powers and constituents of a new creation; and He secures what man will be when he reaches the mature form which was ever in God's mind as the end, and not the mere creation state of even unfallen man.

“As we see it, this all hangs upon the setting right of derangement in the nature of man whereby his living and full relationship with God is established.”

We've seen what sin has done to this universe. We've seen God's response in Christ and how all of history is focused on the crucifixion and resurrection of the Son of Man as the solution for the rebellion of Satan and the effect of that rebellion on humanity.

I want to use something I found that was written by Henry Mabie to show how people often 'interpret' God when they don't understand Who He is and what He's done.

For billions of people, hearing about evil on the one hand and the love of God on the other, demonstrated on the Cross, just confuses them.

They don't have eyes to see beyond the surface because, for whatever reason, they've resisted the most important thing that can happen to anyone; and that is a direct, supernatural, spiritual revelation of Christ to our hearts – seeing Him as He really is.

For example, listen to these verses before I read Henry's comments; Here's Paul's explanation of how he came to understand the truth as it is in Jesus;

(Gal. 1:12) "I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ."

(1 Cor. 2:10-14) "For the (Holy) Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

"These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually understood."

When believers are controlled by the flesh rather than by the spirit, they have the same limited ability to comprehend spiritual truths as does the natural man.

Ok, now Mr. Mabie's quote; this will help what I've said make sense;

"Men say, 'I don't like your God. He is an unethical God. You represent Him as a cold, immobile, far distant, onlooking Being, who by a freezing edict makes a victim of Jesus, the innocent.' Men also say, 'You evangelicals preach a tri-theism. You seem to represent that God and Christ are two

different *kinds* of deity. You seem to have one God to condemn the world and another one to save it from the God who condemns it.’

“But the *real* truth is that God, all-loving and infinitely compassionate, of Whom Christ is the Self-expression, became His own victim. It is the whole triune Deity that is redeeming.

“In the depths of His triune being there is a ‘Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.’ The supreme court of this universe is itself atoning, long before this became visual on Calvary’s hill.”

The cross, if seen simply as a crucifixion, can’t save anyone; but the Cross as an act of God can – because of what the *spiritual* reality of the Cross means.

To the natural man, who *can’t* see this, it’s foolishness.

To the Christian who *won’t* see it, the Cross is merely a noble sacrifice on his behalf; which is mildly grateful for.

Another author I was reading said that when he tried to convince an unbeliever of the truth of the gospel, this is what came back. The man said,

“To me, the idea that God, the offended *first* Person, should take the sin-penalty of man, the guilty *second* person, and put it on the head of Jesus, an innocent *third* Person, is obviously unjust; it is a criminal doctrine and I reject the book that teaches it.”

All of what I’m saying is meant to point out that where there is resistance to the truth, there will be self-convincing arguments to reject it.

The unbeliever is rejecting Christ; the religious Christian is rejecting *life* in Christ, because both are only *spiritually* understood – without that, everything remains confusing and God remains experientially distant.

There is a real sense in which reality itself is completely blocked to those who are spiritually dead.

We have the world, the flesh and the devil all trying to convince us of the way things are; and over against that, we have the Word of God telling us how things *really* are.

It's easy to say we will believe God and not our perception of things; but to *really* believe Him when everything in and around us is screaming the opposite is not easy to do.

Again, we've seen this globally in the massive confusion in the world and even among Christians.

I don't know if you ever stop to think where we would be if the Lord hadn't been so incredibly faithful in giving us the light we have.

We aren't 'better people' than other believers who have been taken in by the deception that's darkening this planet. For reasons we may not understand until we get to heaven, we've been given grace to see what others can't see.

That doesn't make us superior; it makes us accountable to share what we know – whether anyone believes us or not.

I live in a perpetual state of gratitude, because I know myself well enough to know that if not for God's mercy, I'd be right in the middle of all of what's happening.

I'd be vaxxed up and wondering what's wrong with you people!

Let's switch gears for a few minutes.

There are two primary reasons Christians don't enter into fullness of life in Christ:

Either they are believing lies about who they are in Christ, or they lack information - their pastor isn't explaining these things to them. To enter life, we have to know both what that life is and how it's entered.

The grace of God has brought us into a place in Christ that we are unfamiliar with. It's like waking up in a new world completely unacquainted with the way life is lived in that world.

The natural laws of the old world don't apply. For example:

We were taught to love our friends and hate our enemies; now we're told to love our enemies and pray for them.

We were taught to store up treasures and build a little kingdom for ourselves; now we're told to store up treasure in heaven and live by faith

here; faith in a Father Who will provide for us as we help establish *His* kingdom, not ours.

We were raised to believe that the strong were strong and the weak were valueless; now we're told that God chooses the weak to put the strong to shame; and that the greatest among us are not the princes and celebrities and masters; but the servants of the crucified Savior.

So, we're accustomed to the world of Adam; but the kingdom of God seems to be contradictory to all we know.

But if we are Christians, we are no longer under the reign of death; we don't have to live in, or believe, the lies of the Adamic world.

You and I have been born into a totally new creation; into a world of mystery and of life as God always intended life to be; but we have a lot to learn, and a lot to unlearn.

Let's explore that for a few minutes. We've all known since we were young believers that compared to the world, we live in an 'upside down' kingdom. If we're growing, we learn early on that we don't fit in.

A lot of us lost friends soon after coming to Christ. We were different and others knew we were different, and they weren't excited about it.

Confucius, Buddha and Mohammed were fine, but Jesus was not. The Stones, The Grateful Dead and the Beatles were fine, but Steve Green and Twila Paris were boring.

Everything was turned around and, to them, all of it was completely backward.

So, as long as Jesus was portrayed as a religious leader, He was somewhat acceptable.

I assume you remember "My Sweet Lord" by George Harrison;

My sweet Lord
I really want to see you
Really want to be with you
Really want to see you Lord
But it takes so long, my Lord

My sweet Lord
I really want to know you
Really want to go with you
But it takes so long, my Lord (Hallelujah)

Then he switches to this:

My sweet Lord
My sweet Lord (Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna)

. . . which lasts till the end of the song.

I remember seeing an interview with him and the host asked him what this song was all about.

He said that England and America have a large number of Christians and he wanted to do something that would encourage them to move from Christianity to the Eastern religions – to leave the one and explore the others.

“My Sweet Lord” was 50 years ago. So, what’s the draw for younger believers now?

Music may be part of it – music is extremely powerful. But now the appeal is more to the ego and the pleasures of life on earth. They cry for socialism, but live like capitalists.

We are probably living in the most narcissistic generation in history.

Which, of course, is the exact opposite of the real Jesus.

(Phil. 2:5-8) “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

There are four levels of downward transition; God, man, bondslave, criminal. He went from the highest to the lowest position possible.

The world is obsessed with trying to gain the *highest* position possible – which is Luciferian to the core.

This is from Baxter again;

“The soul-subduing mystery is that this glorious One Who is equal with God takes out a blood-relationship with me through human birth and becomes Man to redeem me . . . Before I see God in Christ, He is unknowably distant in his transcendence and incomprehensible in His unimaginable immensity.

“But in Jesus, I see Him, recognize Him, understand Him, and although His sin-exposing holiness still awes and shames me, I am drawn to Him. I reverently like Him, trust Him and love Him . . . He hungers and thirsts. He sighs, thrills, weeps, and knows weariness. All this brings Him closer still to me . . . The richest becomes the poorest; the highest becomes the lowest; the strongest becomes the meekest, so that He can reach down to the poorest, lowest, weakest, neediest and the most sinful . . . He looks on me with human eyes, beckons to me with human hands, and feels for me with human emotions.”

But even now, 2000 years after He ascended, who the *real* Jesus is, isn't something this world has or wants.

What came in through the sin of Adam and has permeated the moral DNA of every person since, is the complete opposite of what we see in the face of Jesus of Nazareth.

He wasn't hated because of His miracles or His love; He was hated because He was different, and that difference, placed side-by-side with even the best humanity had to offer, drew out the hypocrisy and evil in men's hearts.

As we're going to see in the days ahead, if we genuinely take on the character of Christ, the world will hate us. Not because of our love or that fact that we're trying to help, but because we aren't like them.

We're from a kingdom that's not their kingdom.

The inherent hatred of the spirit of antichrist that lives in the hearts of the unbelieving world, and is directed to the Christ Who indwells us, will increasingly surface as we near the end of this age.

I don't know what form it will take in the near future, but if history teaches us anything it's that (as one commentator put it), "there is no hatred worse than religious hatred."

It doesn't matter whether the source is inside or outside the Church, the flesh is still the flesh – and is at enmity against God.

(Gal. 5:17) "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other . . ."

(John 16:1-4) "These things I have spoken to you (beforehand) that you should not be made to stumble. They will put you out of the synagogues (or churches); yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. But these things I have told you, so that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them."

You probably remember in Matt. 27:42 when the religious leaders were mocking Christ on the Cross,

"The chief priests, scribes, and elders mocked Him, saying, "He saved others, but He cannot save Himself."

The same is true of us; if we intend to save others, we can't save ourselves.

So, what undergirds us in times like these? I'll give you a clue - it's not times like these. It's not this whacked out world. It's passages like Matt. 5:11-12;

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

We endure by looking past this world; by seeing Him Who is invisible. That's where our faith is to be fastened, all the way to the rapture.

I'll close with an author's encouragement to go forward with these things in mind;

"If we are seeking to go on with God to any degree beyond that which is *commonly* accepted as the Christian life; if we are called to pioneer the way

for any further advance in spiritual life or Divine service; if we are given a vision of God's will and purpose not seen by the general mass of God's people –ours will be a lonely way.

“There are many other ways in which we may feel aloneness. It may be for geographical reasons; or it may be because of an inward experience through which we are passing; an experience or phase which cannot be shared by another, even the one closest to us.

“All these and other reasons may respectively become our "wilderness" in which Satan comes, and, his business is to push things into the extra realm of untruth and tell us that we are actually and utterly alone. It is not a rare thing for him to tell a child of God that God has left him. But no matter what we experience, that will never happen.”

On an episode of Deep Space Nine, Constable Odo (who was the shape-shifting alien and security chief of the space station), was in love with Major Kira Nerys (who was a humanoid female).

In one of their conversations Odo made a very good point. He said,

“Observing humanoid relationships and being in one are completely different things.”

We aren't passive observers of Divine activity; we are God's sons and daughters. And Fathers don't abandon their children when the going gets rough.