

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

How Do You View Mankind?

(Romans 5:12-21)

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

¹³ for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

¹⁶ The gift is not like *that which came* through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment *arose* from one *transgression* resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift *arose* from many transgressions resulting in justification.

¹⁷ For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

¹⁹ For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

²⁰ The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Romans 5:12-21)

Romans 5:12-21

➤ Overview

- Paul is restating the truth of justification in universal terms in order to ground the certainty of our hope
- the reign of death brought by Adam has been finally and completely overcome by the reign of life and righteousness brought by Christ

Universality of Sin and Death

1. Death Spread

- from Adam's sin the power/dominion of death spread to all mankind
- under the condition of subjection to sin and death, all have sinned

Universality of Sin and Death

➤ *Implications*

- all mankind is under the dominion of death as sinners because of our solidarity with Adam
- this desperate moral corruption is our "natural" condition as humans (cf. Eph. 2:1-3)

Universality of Sin and Death

2. Death Reigns

- death reigned through sin even in the time before the Law was given
- death reigned even over those who, unlike Adam, did not violate a clear, expressed command

Universality of Sin and Death

➤ *How do we view mankind?*

- all under the reign of sin and death as Adam's offspring – even those with no knowledge of God's Word
- in desperate need of the gospel – the only remedy to our condition