

God's Provision of Righteousness Through Jesus Christ

Romans 5:12-21

Sermon-in-a-Sentence: As the sin of Adam brought sin and death to all mankind, so the redeeming work of Jesus Christ brings righteousness and life to all who believe in and receive Him.

ADAM'S CONTRIBUTION	Verses	CHRIST'S CONTRIBUTION	Verses
The One Man Adam ("a pattern of ...") →	12, 14(x3), 15, 16, 17 (x2), 19	The One Man Jesus Christ → (...the one to come")	14, 15(x2), 17(x2), 19, 21
↓		↓	
One Trespass / The Trespass / One Sin / The Disobedience of Adam	15(x2), 16(x2), 17, 18, 19, 20	One Act of Righteousness / The Obedience of Christ	18, 19
↓		↓	
Sin Reigns / Many Trespasses and brings death to all – vs. 12	12, 13(x2), 14, 16, 20, 21	God's Abundant Grace Reigns and "overflows to the many" – vs. 15	15(x2), 17, 20, 21
↓		↓	
Judgment (what is deserved)	16	The Gift of Righteousness	15(x2), 16 (x2), 17, 21
↓		↓	
Condemnation	16, 18	Justification	16, 18
↓		↓	
Death Reigns Universally ("came to all men because all sinned" – vs. 12)	12(x2), 14, 15, 17, 21	Eternal Life Reigns Provisionally (for all "those who receive" – vs. 17)	17, 18, 21
↓		↓	
All Men / The Many	12(x2), 14, 15, 18, 19	The Many / All Men	15, 18, 19
↓		↓	
In Adam The Many (all) were Made Sinners	19	In Christ The Many will be Made Righteous	19
GUILT		GRACE	

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE LAW:

1. Before the law was given, sin and death were already in the world due to the sin of Adam. However, "sin is not taken into account when there is no law" (vss. 12-13). "That is, there could be no *transgression* of the Law until the Law was revealed and put into effect (cf. Romans 4:15). But this does not mean that there was no *sin* before the Law's enactment. The evidence of this is that 'death reigned from Adam until Moses...'" (*Charles Swindoll, Coming to Terms with Sin, p. 61*). Although the Mosaic law did not exist, men still fell short of the glory of God (the perfections of His character – Romans 3:23) and sinned against the law of God that was written in their hearts (Romans 2:15).
2. Death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses (when the law was given) even over those who did not sin by breaking a command (because none existed until the law was given) (vs. 14). The law did not produce sin and death; Adam's disobedience to God's command produced all human sinfulness, misery and death (Genesis 2:15-17).
3. "The law was added so that the trespass might increase"; consequently, "sin increased"—it actually led to the multiplication of sins (vs. 20). The law does not produce righteousness; only God's grace produces righteousness. The law serves to demonstrate that we cannot achieve righteousness on our own; we desperately need God's grace!