

Romans Part Two: The Bridge from Earth to Heaven – Sixth Week

Filling the Hole in Your Soul

How Jesus restores our lost humanity – Romans 5:12-21

Introduction: Humanity stands under two representative heads: Adam and Jesus. The acts of our heads bring consequences to everyone under that head. Those who remain in Adam die; those who come to Jesus not only live, they experience something Paul calls a “reign of life” (reign is used 5x). These ten verses unfold an idea Paul presents 5:10: *We shall be saved by his life*, meaning, “Jesus’ resurrection life displaces the spiritual death brought by Adam.”

1. THE LEGACY OF ADAM – Sin and death enter the world through Adam, our old representative head. Romans 5:12-14

- A. Sin came into the world through one man. 5:12
- B. The bitter consequences of sin spread to the world after Adam’s sin. 5:12b-14
- C. Adam’s sin makes us hope that someone might change our desperate human condition. 5:14b

2. THE LEGACY OF CHRIST – Forgiveness and grace enter the world through Jesus, our new representative head. Romans 5:15-19

- A. By virtue of his identity and work on the cross, Jesus became our new representative head. He does four things to undo the legacy of Adam.
- B. First...because of Christ’s death, God can deal with humanity on the basis of grace. 5:15
- C. Second...because of Christ’s death, God is free to justify rather than judge. 5:16
- D. Third...because of Christ’s death, Christians have the opportunity for abundant life. 5:17
- E. Because of the death of Christ, the entire human race is in a savable position. 5:18-19

3. THE CHOICE AND THE OUTCOME – By receiving Christ, we have the potential for fullness of life. Romans 5:20-21

- A. Abundant life does not come through keeping rules. 5:20a
- B. Abundant life begins with the radical nature of forgiveness. 5:20b
- C. God sets things up so that grace might reign to eternal life. 5:21