

# **The Gospel Story: Through Christ**

*A Study of Romans*

**Romans 5:12-21**

Pastor Bryan Clark

## **Opening Discussion**

1. What would you identify as the two most significant moments in history? Why? How do these moments affect your life on a daily basis?
2. Why do you think so many Christians would say they struggle rather than flourish in their Christian life?
3. Do you believe everyone ultimately lives their belief system? Why or why not? If people ultimately live their belief system what do our lives say about what we believe?

## **Bible Study**

1. Do a quick review of Romans 5:1-11. What are the top 5 truths you learned from that text?
2. Read Romans 5:12-14. Paul makes the argument that somehow through Adam's sin we all sinned. While we may argue whether this is fair or unfair, but according to Paul, what is the evidence that this is true?
3. How does this text affect our worldview? Are we as humans inherently good or sinful?
4. The – at the end of 5:12 indicates a break in Paul's argument ("just as... so then") to further explain his "just as" statement. What is he trying to clarify or explain in 5:13-14?
5. Read Romans 5:15-17. In what way is the free gift different than Adam's transgression? Why is it "much more" and what makes it "abound"?

6. How does the phrase “those who receive” line up with 4:5, 3:22 and dismiss the idea that all people are “saved” (Universalism)?
  
7. Read 5:18-21. The “so then” is finally completing the argument from 5:12 (just as). What is Paul’s conclusion? What is the comparison between the first Adam and Christ (the second Adam)?

## **Application**

1. Every person born is born “in Adam” and all that goes with that. This explains why people live the way they live and struggle the way they struggle. It’s not just the environment or social issues but a fundamental core issue that defines every person. How radical is the change “in Christ”? What fundamentally has changed for those who are in Christ? How fundamentally different is reigning in death versus reigning in life? In other words, how different is a dead person from a live person?
  
2. If we truly believe what Paul says is true, how should we live? What does this say about us if we don’t live according to this truth? Is there any reason for those who are now “in Christ” to live like they did before Christ? Is there anything in our lives that is too hard for God or beyond His power? Should our lives as believers be a little different or a lot different? Is it?