

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, February 24th, 2013

Passage: Romans 5:15-17

Memory Passage: Romans 6:8-9 (Review 6:1-7)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rom. 5:12-21.** Review what you learned last week from your study of 5:12-14 and answer the following questions: 1) What is the relationship between sin & death, and between Adam and all humanity? 2) What does the phrase, “because all sinned” mean and why is our interpretation of this phrase so important? 3) Why was sin not counted where there is no law?
- (b) How are vs. 15-19 related to what precedes (similar to vs. 13-14 expounding upon “because all sinned” from the end of v. 12)? What is the primary difference between what Paul teaches in vs. 15-17 and what he teaches in vs. 18-19?
- (c) In Greek (the original language of the NT) the words translated “grace” and “gift” are very similar. Circle each occurrence of these 2 words that you find in vs. 15-17. What is contrasted with these 2 words in vs. 15-17? What is the significance of Paul’s frequent use of “grace” and “gift”?
- (d) *Family: Read Rom. 5:12-21.* Spend today reviewing what you learned last week. Since we are covering one section of Scripture over a 3 week period it is important to keep the larger section in context by reviewing what has been already learned and reading it in full. If you need help, examine the questions provided in (a) above.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 5:15-17.** Circle the word “many” every time it occurs in vs. 15-19. What does the word “many” mean? Does the term “many” necessarily mark out a smaller group than the whole, or can it mean a complete group or a specified number? How many groups of people are covered by these terms, and who are they?
- (b) There are three contrasts between Adam & Christ in these 3 verses. What is contrasted in v. 15? What did Adam do, how were many affected, and who are the many that were affected by his act? What gift did Christ provide, how were the many affected, and who are the many to whom it abounds?
- (c) In v. 15’s comparison of Adam’s work and Christ’s work, are the 2 works seen as equal? Why or why not? What is the point of comparing the first Adam and the Second Adam in this way (v. 15)?
- (d) *Family: Read Romans 5:15.* Direct everyone’s attention to the list you made last week of contrasts between Adam’s work and Christ’s. Underline the contrast that you find in 5:15. Ask, “How is the free gift of Christ not like the trespass of Adam?” (Adam’s transgression brought death but Christ’s gift [which is God’s love in Christ providing righteousness leading to life instead of death] flows abundantly from God’s grace.) Stress the fact that Christ’s gift not only counters the death brought by Adam’s transgression but also overcomes it (“much more”)! They are not merely equal, neutralizing opposites, but Christ’s work is far greater and reverses the affects of humanity falling into death through Adam’s transgression.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Rom. 5:12-15.** What contrast between Adam’s work and Christ’s work is highlighted in v. 16? To whom was condemnation brought when Adam sinned? Of what does this condemnation consist?
- (b) What is being compared when Paul says “one trespass” in relation to Adam and “many trespasses” in relation to Christ’s work? Why is the fact that the free gift was *following* the many trespasses important, and of what ideas already studied in Romans does this remind you?
- (c) How does Paul’s insertion of “justification” in v. 16 help you understand the relationship of vs. 12-21 to the flow of Paul’s argument up through this verse? In what ways are “condemnation” and “justification” related, both in similarity and dissimilarity?
- (d) *Family: Read Romans 5:16.* Return to your white board again and circle the contrasts between Adam and Christ’s work you find in v. 16. Ask your family to write down definitions of “condemnation” and “justification.” Have each one read their definition of condemnation, and, affirming the parts they have correct and strengthening the parts that are weak, slowly build a good definition as each one reads. Then do the same thing with their definitions of justification. (Condemnation is a legal declaration of guilt at court; justification is a legal declaration of innocence/righteousness in God’s court.) Discuss the similarities (both are declarations/judgments in court) and dissimilarities (they are opposite judgments), and remind them of the wonderful truth that the “free gift of grace” in Christ is offered to all who will repent of their sins and believe on Jesus and will overturn the results of Adam’s sin which resulted in sin, death, and condemnation for all of the human race!

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:15-17.** What is meant by “death reigned” in v. 17? How does this reign relate to Adam’s trespass? How, exactly, does “death reign through that one man” and over whom does it reign?

(b) What is the “free gift” in v. 17, and for what is it needed in vs. 15-17? Explain the contrast between Adam and Christ as it is shown in v. 17 (be sure to interact with the “much more” we see mentioned again in this verse).

(c) What is the qualification for a person to be included in the “reign of death?” What is the qualification for a person to be included in the “reign in life?” How do these qualifications help you understand and apply the terms “many” and “the many” in vs. 15-19?

(d) *Family:* Again return to your white board full of the contrasts between Adam and Christ and this time place a box around the contrasts represented in v. 17. Ask, “What does the word ‘reign’ mean” (to rule, have authority)? Provide each family member with paper and crayons/markers and ask them to draw 2 pictures: one of the reign of death that comes through Adam and one of the reign in life that comes through Jesus Christ. After they draw, have them show and explain their drawings, adding and expanding on the truths they bring so that everyone has a full idea of what each reign entails. Remind them that the free gift of righteousness must be received (v. 17) before one can be considered “in Christ” and reign with Him in life.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rom. 5:12-21.** Summarize and write down the 3 contrasts about which you have learned this week concerning the work of Adam and the work of Christ and the results of their work. How does the teaching in 5:15-17 function to support the theme of hope found in chapters 5-8? In other words, what reasons do believers have to be hopeful on the Day of Judgment based on these 3 verses?

(b) 9 times in Scripture we read of God “abounding in steadfast love” toward His people (Ex. 34:6, Num. 14:18, Ps. 86:5 et. al.). How does the idea that the “free gift . . . abounded for many” in v. 15 further our understanding of this aspect of God’s character?

(c) **Read Rev. 21:9-22:5** and meditate on the New Jerusalem, writing down everything that causes you to give praise to God as you contemplate what eternity will be like. Contemplate the “reign” we will have (22:5) with Christ in this New Jerusalem. Summarize what this reign will be like and write down your response to God as you meditate on this eternal benefit of Christ’s free gift applied to all those who receive it through repentance and faith.

(d) *Family:* Lead your family through (c) above. This would be another great time to have them draw what their mind’s eye sees as you read about the New Jerusalem and then have them explain their drawings. Remind them that believers in Christ, those who are “in Christ” and not “in Adam” will reign with Christ in this new city for eternity!

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In Christ vs. In Adam (Part II)