

“Celebrating the Gift of Jesus”

Romans 5:12-21
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
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In order to celebrate the gift of Jesus we must personalize the following truths...

Truth 1: The sin of Adam has been imparted to each of us. (Romans 5:12-14)

“SPIRITUAL POVERTY IS REQUIRED FOR A SAVING FAITH. No one can become a Christian who does not admit, at some level, her lostness and hopelessness in freeing herself from the prison and penalty of sin (Romans 3:23). Otherwise, Jesus’ death is meaningless and unnecessary. So to come to saving faith, we must be broken. What often happens, however, is that we accept Christ as Savior because of our brokenness and then we live our Christian lives as if we are whole.”

Henry Cloud and John Townsend, *How People Grow*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001, p. 268.

Truth 2: The consequences of sin are condemnation and death. (Romans 5:12, 16-18)

“The unbeliever has reason to fear all three deaths. Spiritual death prevents his earthly happiness; physical death will bring an end to opportunity for salvation; and eternal death will bring everlasting punishment.”

John F. MacArthur, *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*, The Moody Bible Institute, Chicago IL, 1991, p. 295.

Truth 3: The gift of Jesus brings justification, righteousness and eternal life. (Romans 5:15-21)

“The resolution of our guilt did not come from our ‘being good.’ It came from Jesus dying and paying the death penalty. As a result, we are reconnected to God. We now have an unbroken and alive relationship with him.”

Henry Cloud and John Townsend, *How People Grow*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2001, p. 164.

“You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we’re in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn’t sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it.

Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man’s sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God’s gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There’s no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man’s wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?

Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.

All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn’t, and doesn’t, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace. When it’s sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that’s the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.”

Romans 5:12-21, *The Message*