

Turn to Romans 5 – be there in a minute**1. We are going to go out of Galatians this morning**

- A. For some reason this thought of our union with Christ was really on my heart
 - 1). It will go along with what we've learned in Galatians and further clarify some things

Question: Why does man need the Gospel taught in Galatians?

- A. Because he is born in a horrifying state – a sinful state – alienated from God
 - 1). The church needs to teach that clearly – so people will know they need the Gospel
- B. Unfortunately to make the message more palatable – many Pastors are softening it
 - 1). The Gospel is no longer necessary because you are a guilty sinner – a child of wrath
That at any moment you could plummet into eternity to be lost forever
 - 2). That might offend – so we no longer warn about hell – sin - judgment
- C. Our gospel now sounds like this
 - “You sick? Christ died to bring you healing - just trust Him”
 - “Financial troubles? Christ will provide - go to Him”
 - “Feeling lonely? Christ wants to be your friend. Just accept Him”
 - 1). I've even heard it taught like God is lonely – created man for companionship
Be saved to do poor God a favor. “No thanks! He sounds a bit needy to me! Pass!”
 - 2). All this loses the majesty of God – the glory of the Gospel

Question: Is any of that really the Gospel?

- A. Did Christ really die to become your benevolent banker in the sky? Just to heal you physically?
Just to provide some companionship? Just to give you some purpose in life?
 - 1). What happens when your money troubles end – you get well – meet a group of new friends?
 - a). Take up a hobby that gives you some purpose
 - 2). What happens when these temporal needs are met and you feel you don't need Jesus? See Ya!
- B. The Gospel is weightier than all these temporal problems isn't it?
 - 1). It deals with problems that affect us now and can carry into eternity
 - a). The Gospel speaks to men who have offended a holy God – who are guilty before Him
A God who is holy and therefore MUST judge your sin with eternal damnation

Thought: That is man's main problem – that is what he must find a solution for

- A. Everything else is light - temporal
- B. Sickness, financial problems, loneliness, lack of purpose pales in comparison to our real need
 - 1). We are all rushing towards a grave – where eternity begins!

Point: So it does nobody any good to preach a light Gospel that never mentions this bad news

- A. I understand this message is not popular – might never have a big church
But this truth of guilt before God is absolutely necessary for spiritual health in the church
- B. The *sinner* in the church needs to hear this to put an urgency in them to flee from the wrath too come
 - 1). This creates a *gracious terror* that helps them release their grip on sin and turn to Him
- C. The *saint* needs to hear this to develop an appreciation of the Gospel and what Christ has done
 - 1). The more I understand the extent of my sin and the horrors of hell
The more I appreciate Christ who rescued me from that by His grace – result is worship
 - a). These light humanistic messages being pumped out will not do that!
 - 2). To reduce these weighty truths to just deal with temporal needs – to fill a church – you lose that

Transition: Let's look at some of the bad news – so we can appreciate the good news Paul teaches in Galatians

I. BAD NEWS FOR ALL OF MANKIND: WE ARE BORN IN A SINFUL STATE

Let's trace that through Scripture a bit and see how that happened – go all the way back to Adam and Eve in the garden

1. In the garden God gave man incredible freedom AND ONE command

Ge 2:15–17 (ESV) The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ⁽¹⁶⁾ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ⁽¹⁷⁾ *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*”

A. Simple enough – eat from any tree in the garden but one – why?

1). A reminder – even though Adam and Eve were given dominion over all creation

This one command reminded them that they were still under authority

2). As they ruled they were to remember they were also being ruled by God

2. Temptation: The serpent attacks

A. **Questioning God's Word:** Did He really say?

B. **Questioning God's integrity:** You won't really die – He lied to you

C. **Questioning God's motive:** Reason He doesn't want you to eat from that tree is you'll be like Him

1). He doesn't want you to really enjoy life – He's holding back the good stuff! Cosmic killjoy

3. Adam and Eve fall – they eat of the fruit – first sin

A. Here we get a good view of what sin really is

1). It's not just breaking some impersonal – arbitrary rule or law about a tree

a). It is the rejection of God's authority in our life – the one who gave the law

2). Every sin is the creature saying to the creator – “You will not rule over me”

“I will be Lord of my life – I will choose what is best for me and what is not!”

Transition: The fall had a devastating effect – *death entered God's creation in two ways*

A. **First:** They began to die physically – created to live forever but they began to age and die

B. **Second:** Immediately after they sinned they died spiritually

4. The spiritual devastation that occurred at the fall: A change of nature

A. They were created with a holy nature – after the fall they had a sinful nature

Question: When we say nature what do we mean?

A. Our nature is that part of us that directs our desires, choices, actions

1). Before the fall Adam and Eve's nature was holy = *their whole being was God oriented*

a). They desired God – responded to God – delighted in doing the will of God

B. After the fall their nature was *sin oriented* = set against God

1). They had died spiritually = No longer desired God – no longer ran to Him now ran away

a). No longer wanted intimacy with their creator – now desired distance

b). No longer wanted to do God's will – now they would do what they wanted to do

2). That's spiritual death – they died to any genuine desire for God and His ways

Transition: That happened to Adam – but how did that affect us – need to see our relationship to him

5. Our relationship to Adam

A. God appointed Adam to be the representative of the whole human race = *Federal headship*

1). As our representative – his actions whether good or bad would affect us all

a). Like president of the U.S. represents all Americans

His actions affect Americans all over the world – I experienced this in England

B. When Adam sinned the results of that flowed down to every one of his descendants

1). His sin polluted the entire human race

TURN: Ro 5:12 (ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world *through one man*, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men *because all sinned*—

Clearer: Rom 5:12 (NLT) When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

TURN: Ro 5:19 (ESV) For as by the *one man's* disobedience the *many* were made sinners...

- a). When Adam our representative sinned we all sinned in him
- b). So his sinful – rebellious nature was passed on to you and me – all he represented
 - 1a). See that early in children – don't have to teach them to lie but to tell truth - share
- 2). Not only his nature was passed down – but his guilt was also transferred to all he represented

TURN: Ro 5:18 (ESV) Therefore, as *one trespass led to condemnation for all men...*

- a). Why Paul says in Eph 2:3 we were *by nature children of wrath*
- b). Not born into this world as children of God – but in a state of rebellion and alienation
 - 1a). Born in a state of condemnation before God

Point: This is bad news – We are all born sinful and guilty before God in Adam

- A. But for you who are now thinking – lousy Adam if you hadn't have fallen...
 - 1). I think you've sinned enough to be guilty on your own
 - 2). We are sinners in Adam *corporately* – we are sinners by *choice individually*

6. Sinners by choice

- A. We can't stand back and take no responsibility for our guilty state before God
 - "It's not fair – If it weren't for Adam I'd be ok!"
 - 1). No! You're responsible – you've sinned willingly – you've done enough to be guilty on your own
- B. You've made plenty of choices that go against God's law
 - 1). None of us hit the standard of what God requires

What Paul said: Ro 3:23 (ESV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Summary: What do we have so far?

- A. You HAVE sinned and you are guilty because of Adam's choice
- B. You have sinned and you are guilty because of your own choices

Warning: The mistake some make when start to see this – what Paul is warning about in Galatians

- A. Well then I'll just try harder...be nicer...be more religious...be more sincere
 - 1). Churches are filled with people who see their need and rather than place their faith in Christ They have simply eased their conscience by becoming more religious
- B. But the sinner must see they are hopelessly lost – can't do anything on their own too correct it
 - 1). Just turning over a new leaf won't make you right with God
 - You're already guilty – you've already broken His law a multitude of times – serial sinner
 - a). Trying harder can't erase what you've already done!
- C. I think many believe on that day they'll be able to talk God out of judging them – plead their case
 - "Now Lord, you know all the good I did. I know I wasn't perfect but hey who is. Right! I tried to be honest. I tried to be a good spouse and parent. I feel I was very sincere. I never tried to hurt anybody Certainly I was more moral than most of my friends."
 - 1). They feel if the good outweighs the bad they'll be OK – Wrong!
- D. What will God use to judge the unbeliever? His law! Are you a lawbreaker?

Watch: Ro 3:19 (ESV) Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law (every unbeliever), *so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world* may be held accountable to God.

- 1). The Christ rejecter will stand before God – the law will be presented – they will be silenced
 - a). They will know without a doubt they are guilty and will be lost for all of eternity

- b). Nobody will go to hell thinking they don't deserve it!

Point: What a desperate situation man finds himself in

- A. Born guilty before God because of Adam's choice – his sin
- B. Guilty before God because of their own choices – their sin
- C. And unable to do anything about it on their own - they can't erase the guilt

Transition: Let's take one more step downward in man's plight

- A. We've seen man's nature is sinful – Now let's see God's nature = *it is holy*
 - 1). This is not good news for the Christ rejecting sinner

TURN TO ISAIAH 57:15

III. BAD NEWS FOR SINNERS: GOD'S HOLY NATURE

Is 57:15 (ESV) For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, *whose name is Holy...*

1. Holiness defined

- A. The base meaning of the word holy = to be separate – to be set apart
 - 1). In the moral sense = God is entirely separate and set apart from any degree of sin

Question: How does this affect His creation

- A. It means He cannot overlook sin in His creation – He cannot and will not accept it

2. Balance is so necessary here in today's redefined Christianity

- A. We must see who God is as the Bible defines Him – rather than embrace a God of our own imagination
 - 1). We want a God who is only love – a soft God who overlooks our sin – who really doesn't mind
 - 2). But that is a God of man's creation NOT the God of the Bible
- B. God is holy and therefore cannot will not overlook sin – my sin must be dealt
 - 1). If He overlooks one sin He is not holy – that absolute holiness the Bible claims for Him

1 Jn 1:5 (ESV) This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, *that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*

- a). His love – mercy – kindness does not overwrite His holiness, wrath and judgment
 - 2). Fortunately - In love He offers you the Gospel invitation – a way to escape His wrath
 - a). But if you are sitting there right now and you have rejected that
 - 1a). You've rejected His love and will experience His wrath = your choice
- C. And this is urgent – the time of responding is now
 - 1). Jonathon Edwards: Famous sermon "Sinners in the hands of an angry God"

Edwards. Sinners in the hands of an angry God: Your (talking to the unrepentant sinner) wickedness makes you as it were heavy as lead, and to tend downwards with great weight and pressure towards hell; and if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend and plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, and all your righteousness, would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of hell, than a spider's web would have to stop a falling rock.

He continues on: The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string, and justice bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow, and it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood.
 - 2). He who holds your breath in His hands can say right now – that was the last one
 - a). He who controls all things may say – my patience with you has now run out
 - 1a). There is a million ways He can send you into eternity

Thought: My friend – sitting here in the congregation – listening from the live feed – downloading...

- A. If you haven't responded to the loving offer of God found in His Gospel

- 1). To believe on His Son – trusting in what He has done for you on the cross
You have no idea the extent of the trouble you are in!
 - B. But fortunately for you “Son of Adam” – guilty because of your relationship with Him
 - 1). God has another plan – another “Federal head” He sent for your rescue
- Transition:** So we’ve seen that we are in trouble
- A. God determined Adam would represent man – what he did would affect us all – good or bad
Because we are in Adam – when he sinned we sinned in him – his guilt also made us guilty
TURN: Ro 5:19 (ESV) For as by the *one man’s* disobedience the *many* were made sinners...
 - B. I want to show you God’s incredible plan – we’re learning theology as we go
 - 1). We are re-gaining a Christian vocabulary we’ve lost through the time
 - 2). Words mean so much – there is so much power in a word
 - a). Especially these great Christian words – they add strength – backbone
So much more than a sermon filled with cute stories that fade by the time you hit the parking lot – funny jokes that do no good when you’re in trouble!
 - b). Pastor’s job is to equip you with truth! Sound Biblical truth that will set you free
 - c). If you’re thinking – I hope he lightens up one day – sorry!
Vance Havner: We are here to preach sin black, hell hot, judgement certain, eternity long and salvation free.
 - C. Brothers and sisters you want to move past the sermons that constantly just give you lists
 - 1). 10 ways to be a better husband – wife – child – pet owner
 - 2). When you’re in trouble and need God – and you haven’t learned through doctrine what He’s done for you – why you can expect help – why the promises are sure for you
 - a). If you don’t know grace – you’ll naturally be legalistic - default
You’ll look at those lists and you’ll see all the failure to keep them – every one
 - b). The problem – we can’t keep all those lists consistent enough
If I’m basing why I think God will help me – provide for me on that! I’m done!
 - c). When I’m in that doctor’s office and hear bad news – I’d better understand grace
 - 1a). To ask God for help – knowing His ears are tuned into me – heart for me
Because of what Christ has done
 - 2a). I come to you now on the basis of what He did – knowing you accept me – will bless me – will help be because of that
 - D. Again I want you to see the grace of God – How God comes to the rescue!

IV. GOOD NEWS OF GOD: THE FEDERAL HEADSHIP OF CHRIST

1. You were born in Adam – guilty and condemned

- A. You personally chose to sin = more guilt and condemnation
- B. God is holy – He will – must – judge that sin – He is holy and just
 - 1). But He is also loving and merciful what did He do? Amazing

2. God sent a second representative to earth – Jesus Christ

- A. A *second federal head* – a second representative
 - 1). Just as I said a few weeks back – to understand justification you need to understand substitution
The same way to understand justification you need to understand federal headship
- B. So Adam represented the entire human race
 - 1). What he did would affect us all – why you were born in sin – a rebel nature set against God
- C. The good news is God sent a second representative – Jesus Christ

- 1). What He did would affect a very specific group of people – who?
Whoever would place their faith in Him and His work on their behalf
 - a). Whoever would see they could never earn salvation on their own
And turn to Him and trust in Him alone to be in heaven

Transition: Let's look at this in Scripture – stay in Romans 5 – we'll see the contrast

Ro 5:19 (ESV) For as by the one man's disobedience (Adam) the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience (Jesus) *the many will be made righteous.*

- A. Adam represented all of us – he sinned and we all became sinners
- B. Jesus represents those who would believe – He obeyed and those who *believe are made righteous*
 - 1). What is righteousness = 100% compliance to the law
 - 2). God now legally sees YOU who are IN CHRIST as if you have never broken the law!!!
- C. Now you see why Romans 8:1 is true (I love the way the Bibles truths dove tail)

Ro 8:1 (ESV) There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- 1). Why because I don't sin any longer? No! I still fail
But because Christ (my representative) never failed once – and I am righteous in Him
 - a). So the law can scan my life now and find nothing to condemn – even though I still fail
- 2). It's what Martin Luther said the justified saint is "Simul Justus et Peccator"
 - a). **Simul** = word we get our word *simultaneously* from
 - b). **Justus** (You-stus) = Latin word for *just* or *righteous*
 - c). **Et** = And
 - c). **Peccator** (Peh-kah-tor) = sinner
 - 1a). In our justification we are at the same time righteous and sinful
 - 2a). Righteous in Christ – but we still fail at times in our walk
 - 3a). But those times of failure doesn't change that righteous standing
Because that is based on the one that never failed once – our representative

Transition: How does this work – really quick back to substitution

How a sinner like me becomes righteous

- 1). Just trying to weave this all together to show you how it works – these truths are powerful

DOCTRINE OF SUBSTITUTION

TURN: 2 Co 5:21 (ESV) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that *in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

- A. God made Him to be sin – means this – it was an act of accounting - imputation
 - 1). God took all the sins of those who place their faith in Christ
And moves them over to Christ's account
Then treats Him as if He lived our life and sinned our sin (though He never sinned once)
 - a). He is judged in our place – receiving the wrath we owe
- B. Then He takes Christ's righteousness – earned from His perfect obedience
And moves that over to our account! Now listen to this!
 - 1). And He treats us as if we lived His life and never sinned once
- C. Jesus our representative gets what we deserve = the wrath of God
We get what He earned = acceptance with God, eternity in heaven and all the blessings
 - 1). My failures along the way doesn't change my righteous standing with God

3. We are identified with Christ – not Satan and not that old sinful self

- A. Do you see yourself as that new person in Him? Amazing what has happened to you!

Eph 1:3-14 (NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing **in Christ**. (4) For he chose us **in him** before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love (5) he predestined us to be adopted as his sons **through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will-- (6) to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us **in the One he loves**. (7) **In him** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (8) that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. (9) And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, (10) to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment--to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. (11) **In him** we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, (12) in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. (13) And you also were included **in Christ** when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were **marked in him** with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

- 1). Blessed with every spiritual blessing
 - 2). Chosen to be God's child
 - 3). Adopted
 - 4). Given grace
 - 5). Redemption
 - 6). Spiritual wisdom and understanding
 - 7). Predestined
 - 8). Marked in Him with a seal guaranteeing we will be with Him
- B. We could talk about us identifying with His victory at the cross over sin!
- 1). Therefore we don't have to sin – we can have victory

Point: These are all the benefits of grace aren't they – Christian see who you are

Eph 2:6 (NIV) And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

- A. If this is all true – all the important things are handled – why do you worry so much?
- 1). Why don't you have more joy than you do?

CONCLUSION

1. This is so practical – this is how you stand when crisis hits

- A. You're in the doctors office and get bad news – and you start to pray – what happens
- 1). The devil reminds you of your failure – and you feel like you don't deserve help
 - a). So you feel alone – if only I didn't fail at times
 - 2). But if you know the truth – it will set you free from that

“God I need your help right now.” Devil accuses “But what about this or that”

“God I thank you that I'm in Christ and He is my representative. I thank you that you determined that all who believed in Him would receive the benefits of what He did. Therefore I thank you that in Him you see me as one who has perfectly obeyed your law. Therefore on the basis of what He did and what you said. I come and ask you for help. Thank you for grace, thank you for this wonderful plan. That my failure doesn't shut me out from your grace.”

2. Identified with Christ – not that old self – start to see yourself in this way

- A. That will affect how you think about everything else in life!