

# The Pilgrimage To A Spirit-Led Life

## Part Twelve

Last time we studied the first part of Romans chapter five and covered the five experiential results of being justified by faith.

(a) Peace with God; (b) Access to grace; (c) Joy of the hope of God's Salvation; (d) Joy in tribulation for what tribulation does for us; (e) Reconciliation with our Creator God.

**Romans 5:12-14** [NIV] *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned, for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.”*

**Paul now covers comparison between Adam and Jesus.**

A very concentrated piece of reasoning conducted in a style that a teaching Jewish Rabbi would use.

Mainly with a Jewish audience in mind **but** important understand for us as Christians.

**Paul points out two time periods:**

**(a) Adam – Moses**

When there was **no** God given law for the human race.

God had given Adam just one commandment, a negative one, not to eat of the one among many trees in the garden.

**Not** a set of laws by which to live as given by God through Moses.

**(b) Moses – Christ**

**John 1:17** [NIV] *“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”*

**Law given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Christ.**

**Romans 10:4** [NIV] *“Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”*

**Christ is the end of the law as a means of attaining righteousness.**

When considering *“the law”* we must always remember the following points:

- (a) All given at **one time** through one man – Moses
- (b) Only given to one **small section** of the human race, maybe 3,000,000 people
- (c) Given at a **certain point** in history
- (d) Could **only be fully carried out in one place** and that was the land of Israel.  
For much of the law entailed doing things which could only be done in Israel

(e) The law was **never** given to Gentiles

What Paul is saying in this passage is that Jesus was an outworking of a pattern that was first given in Adam, pointing to a close parallel between Adam and Christ.

**For example:-**

(a) **Adam** was given one commandment when in the Garden of Eden and disobeyed it.

**Christ** was given a commandment in the Garden of Gethsemane to lay down his life and obeyed it.

(b) **1 Corinthians 15:45-47** [NIV] *“So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven.”* First Adam – made living being.

Last Adam [Christ] – a life giving spirit.

**When Jesus died on the cross he died as the last Adam.**

The end of the whole evil Adamic race.

When Jesus was buried this whole race was buried with him [came to an end].

This also included all who would be born and sin in the future.

How?

**Hebrews 9:14** [NIV] *“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”*

**It was through something eternal, outside of time, that this sacrifice was made – “through Holy Spirit”.**

**A once and for all time sacrifice to put away the sin of the Adamic race completely.**

**1 Corinthians 15:47** [NIV] *“The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven.”*

When Jesus rose from the dead he was the “second man”.

The first born of many to be born in future.

A **new** race through a resurrection from the dead.

**Colossians 1:15-18** [NIV] *“He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation**. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And **he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.**”*

**Christ the head of that new race.**

**God has given to us the physical birth as a beautiful analogy to understand this spiritual birth.**

**In a physical birth normally the head is the first part to be born and this is a guarantee that the rest of the body will follow.**

**This new race is the Emmanuel [or grace] race [with us is God].**

**God in us through the indwelling of Holy Spirit.**

Paul continues this comparison between Adam and Jesus.

**I feel it is easier if we study first the points in which Adam and Jesus were alike –**

**Romans 5:18 [NIV]** *“Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.”*

(a) **Adam** – By one act of disobedience brought condemnation on all the race descended from him.

Adam received a command, disobeyed it, sin entered, death followed sin, and sin and death have continued on to this day.

**Jesus** – Through one act of righteousness [Greek ‘dikaioma’ worked out righteousness – a righteous act that fulfils the requirement of God] obtained the possibility of justification of life to all men.

**The one act of righteousness was the sacrifice of himself upon the cross.**

**Because of this act of righteousness we can receive life by having God’s Righteousness credited to us.**

**Romans 4:18-25 [NIV]** *“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead, since he was about a hundred years old, and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.” The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”*

**All through His Word God, it is shown that God will not bestow eternal life on anyone who is unrighteous.**

**As we have seen in Romans, becoming righteous is the foremost issue and the essential theme or the letter.**

(b) **Romans 5:19 [NIV]** *“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”*

Many made sinners through one man’s [Adam’s] disobedience; so through one man’s [Jesus’] obedience many can be made righteous by belief in Him.

This is important for all of us who have become sinners through Adam’s act of disobedience, are not sinners just by label, but realise that we are sinners by nature and by act.

In the same way when we are made righteous by the one act of Christ we are righteous **not** just by label, but also by nature and by act.

**Now let us look at those things which are dissimilar between Adam and Jesus –**

(a) **Romans 5:15 [NIV]** *“But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!”*

**Adam's** one act of disobedience brought its consequences on all of us, but all of us have **added** our own acts of disobedience.

But **Jesus'** one act of obedience brought justification to us and we have **nothing** to add of our own, it was totally Jesus.

(b) **Romans 5:16** [NIV] *“Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.”*

**Adam's** one act of disobedience brought condemnation on the whole Adamic race but **Jesus'** act of righteousness made it possible for us to be justified from countless acts of disobedience.

(c) **Romans 5:17** [NIV] *“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.”*

One act of disobedience brought death to all mankind so by one act of obedience, **life**, will be brought to all humanity.

**Isaiah 9:2** [NIV] *“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”*

All humans are **dwelling** in the shadow of death.

There is no way of escape.

**On these people light has come to show the way out of the shadow of death.**

**Totally an act of God, humanity cannot escape death by their own power.**

**John 8:12** [NIV] *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

**Christ is that light, the light of life.**

**Romans 5:20-21** [NIV] *“The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

This one act of salvation bringing the gift of abundant grace and the gift of righteousness, transfers us from the kingdom of Satan [darkness and death] into the kingdom of God [light and life].

So that we can reign with Him, **not** just in the world tomorrow but here and now.

**Ephesians 2:4-6** [NIV] *“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions, it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,”*

**Note** This is all in the past tense.

We are already seated with Christ in heavenly realm.

**Philippians 3:20** [NIV] *“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,”*

The Greek word translated “citizenship” is “*pōlitēuma*” meaning – community – citizenship – common wealth, to behave as a citizen of heaven in our conversation.

**2 Corinthians 5:20** [NIV] *“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”* We are Christ’s ambassadors, we represent him here on earth now.

**When we realise just how bountiful the Grace of God is, shouldn’t we join the psalmist in praising God?**

**Psalms 113:1-9** [NIV] *“Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. Let the name of the LORD be praised, both now and for evermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the LORD is to be praised. The LORD is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the LORD our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes, with the princes of their people. He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise the LORD.”*

**That is what I call bountiful grace.**

**Colossians 1:1-23** [NIV] *“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. **We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,** when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints, the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. **All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.** You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow-servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. **For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fulness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. **Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation, if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.** This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”*

**This is what the gospel is, the good news of what God has done for all mankind and we are His servants to bring that same good news to all we come in contact with in this life now.**