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Romans 5:6-21

Christ in Our Place

⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Death in Adam, Life in Christ

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— ¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even

over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift *is* not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. ¹⁶ And the gift *is* not like *that which came* through the one who sinned. For the judgment *which came* from one *offense resulted* in condemnation, but the free gift *which came* from many offenses *resulted* in justification. ¹⁷ For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

¹⁸ Therefore, as through one man's offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

²⁰ Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹ so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Okay here's my commentary

Origins of sin and what it means to "Reign in Life"

The apostle Paul expounds on the origins of sin and our salvation. He points back in history identifying two men. The first was Adam and the second Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches a very important truth that through Adam the first man sin entered into the human race and the result was death. Remember when God told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden that if they ate the forbidden fruit they would die? When you read the story, they did eat this forbidden fruit but they did not die right away physically but they died spiritually immediately. This means that they were separated from the life of God because of sin.

Original Sin

From this point onwards everyone born into the world was born under the same curse of sin. Many people do not like the idea of original sin and it's universal application. The reality is that sin is like a powerful magnet to humans, we're just attracted to sin from an early age. We are born innocent but the DNA of sin is in our nature because of Adam's original sin. You don't have to teach someone how to sin but you do have to teach people to repent and live righteous. However, the point is that no one born into this world can escape from the effects of the original sin of Adam through their own power and self efforts.

This is why God sent his Son Jesus Christ Who is also referred to in Scripture as the second Adam. Why? Because Jesus Christ is both 100% God and 100% man. He did not come from the earth nor did he come from Adams seed but he came from God the Father in heaven and he did not have a sinful nature like ours. Jesus was born in the flesh through Mary but his

blood was holy and untainted from sin. The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ never broke the laws of God and so his death was the perfect sacrifice. On the cross Jesus reversed the curse!!! He said "It is finished". The payment of the sins of all of humanity past, present and future were completely paid for in the eyes of God because he had no sin of his own to suffer for so Jesus became our substitute, our deliverer and Savior from both sin and death! He represented a new race of human beings offering the free gift of righteousness and eternal life.

How to reign in life through Jesus Christ

Not only did Jesus die to save us from our sins and give us the gift of righteousness but once a person enters into this new life and relationship with God through Jesus Christ the Bible teaches in verse 17 those that receive this abundance of grace and gift of righteousness will reign in life through one Jesus Christ. I have to tell you I am very excited about this verse and I actually have it printed and taped to the door of my office at home to remind myself of its significance every day. This is where our faith needs to not be the kind of resting, trusting faith alone but an aggressive faith that reaches out to takes dominion but dominion over what?

Dominion over sin!

Once a person has been born again by the Spirit of God the Bible says that they are a new creature in Christ Jesus and the old has passed away the new has come. Now on the inside of Christians is a supernatural power by the Holy Spirit to overcome sin. We don't have to yield to the power of sin anymore because the Greater One the Lord Jesus Christ and his holy nature lives on the inside of us. This is great news but we have to choose to walk in this power and dominion over sin and resist evil one. This means we have to make a decision every day to obey God and resist temptations.

Dominion to reign in life!

I know that what I'm about ready to share I'm sure will be highly controversial. However, I believe that Jesus came to bring us life and life abundantly not just to forgive our sins! This is what he said John 10:10. The thief only comes to steal, kill and to destroy but I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I do not think that Jesus was only talking about eternal life on the inside of us but about every realm of life. I believe this because of a couple of very strong biblical arguments.

Tri-Dimensional Dominion in the Bible

First, when God originally created Adam and Eve in the garden they had an abundance. The Lord told them to take dominion over the entire earth on three levels: air, sea and land! The birds of the air, the fish of the sea and everything that moved on the planet. To me, this means **Tri-Dimensional Dominion** to rule over the earth and its resources. Has God changed his mind? I don't think so. If He blessed Adam and Eve with this dominion to be fruitful and multiply and subdue the earth I believe it applies to believers in Christ Jesus today especially

in the context of Jesus giving the great commission he said: All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth go therefore and make disciples of all nations...

This is not Kingdom now theology

What I am not advocating is a kingdom now theology that would teach that we must subdue all realms of Life on planet earth before Jesus Christ returns. I think that is false in light of the book of Revelation revealing that the world will become more and more evil and corrupt until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. So I do not think it is the churches responsibility to subdue everything and then somehow turn around and hand it to Jesus when he returns. What I do believe is that God wants us to take dominion over the territory that he has assigned to each of us and expand the Kingdom of God until he returns. Jesus said to use the resources and gifts entrusted to us. Luke 19:13 **"Occupy** till I come". Other Refs; John 10:10, Genesis 1:26-28, Matthew 28:18-20

We have a better covenant with better promises!

Second, the Bible teaches us that now, through Jesus Christ, we have a better covenant established on better promises! Hebrews 6:8 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

God blessed Adam and Eve with his best in the garden. They lost it through sin but Jesus Christ not only reconciled us to God the Father but has provided for us a better covenant on better promises. I know the primary upgrade so to speak is that the O.T. sacrificial system has been completely replaced by the ultimate and superior sacrifice the Jesus the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world. However, I also believe that if the Lord blessed Adam and Eve with his abundance and the children of Israel with his supernatural blessings through obedience how much more for us today that have of better covenant established on better promises?

My point is, I do not believe that God takes away from the good things that he promised in the old covenant so that we have somehow less of his blessings now in New Testament as His children that have been born again! I do not believe that poverty and financial lack are a blessing but according to the old covenant this was a curse. When the Bible says that through Jesus Christ believers will reign in life I believe it applies to every realm of our existence spiritually, emotionally, physically and financially.

But what are the practical keys to walking in this kind of dominion and blessing?

Obedience to God and faith in His promises!

When we yield our lives to do the will of God and seek him to fulfill his purpose and calling I believe all things are possible. A few verses that back up this principal of obedience and faith to reign in life are:

Isaiah 1:19-20 If you are **willing** and **obedient**, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is **a rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.

2 Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him **are Yes**, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God **through us**.

What's the bottom line?

- 1) Adam was the father of Original Sin.
- 2) Sin spread all humanity and it's universal corrupting all of mankind.
- 3) Jesus Christ came to set us free from sin and give us the gift of righteousness and eternal life.
- 4) Through Jesus Christ we reign over sin and in every area of our lives.
- 5) The blessings of the Lord do not automatically come into our lives.
- 6) Obedience to God, putting the Kingdom of God first, living in righteousness and faith in His promises are the requirements to really reigning in life as a Christian.
- 7) The Lord wants to bless us so we can be a blessing to bring the Gospel to the lost. Let's do what Jesus said to do; "Occupy till I come" in other words use every gift and resource to expand the Kingdom of God starting right where you are in obedience and faith.

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