

[Romans 5:9 – 21]

~ Our Spiritual Safari closed our expedition through the entire Word of God to the natural man in our previous report, because the natural man cannot receive the things of God; and we just happen to be learning the things of God in our reports from Romans, friends. Throughout the remainder of Romans, the sign on our safari window is: *C-L-O-S-E-D* to unbelievers. In our last report, we began examining eight privileges the believer receives in this life here on earth. We went through six of them; and number seven is deliverance from the Great Tribulation period here in verse nine....

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

~ Zephaniah said, “.... *the great day of His wrath hath come!*” That’s chapter one verse fifteen in Zephaniah’s prophecy. God is constantly saving us today from the *power* of sin. In the future, we will be saved from the *presence* of sin! Every believer will go out in the rapture on the same basis; because he has been saved by the grace of God. We will be taken out of tribulation by the grace of God, too, by the way. We’ve been saved by grace; we live by grace; ten million years from now we’ll be in Heaven by the grace of God! We now know how we, the church body of Christ, are saved from wrath through death, burial and resurrection....

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the reconciliation.

~ We can rejoice in our trials and troubles here on earth because of Who the Lord Jesus Christ is! And because He is alive! We can rejoice that God has provided a salvation for us and that He is willing to save us as sinners and willing to bring us into His presence; knowing that He has worked out a plan of redemption through us because of His love for us. Do you rejoice in

that? That's the eighth benefit; and it should bring joy to the heart of the child of God. Do you have that joy in your heart? Let's just praise the Lord....

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

~ Alright, we've come quite a ways in Paul's epistle to the Romans and, from here through the end of the eighth chapter, we're going to observe the *sanctification of the saint*. Our Spiritual Safari will shift gears now. We have examined the subject of sin and exhausted it. Then, we considered the subject of salvation properly, correctly and completely. This is where God declares only the sinner righteous in salvation! Read that again very carefully – it is correct. Only God can cause a sinner to recover. There is a work of God in sanctification; wherein salvation was an act of God. Either way, the remainder of chapter five contains what has been called *Potential Sanctification*.

We have arrived at a subject I believe we will all find tremendously difficult to comprehend and accept, in two ways. That which we are going to attempt to discern God's Spirit concerning – I'll tell you right up front – I find profoundly difficult to accept. This is the harshest doctrine we have studied thus far on safari; and if you are reading for the first time, you will likely have a very difficult time absorbing the spiritual medicine we're being prescribed in this passage. Within "*Potential Sanctification*" is what is known as the *Federal Headship of Adam and Christ*. We don't usually wax theological on safari, but this is important so we can understand exactly what we believe; because only then can we be sure.

In verses twelve through fourteen of this chapter we have the headship of Adam. Sin and death came through Adam. Then, we have the headship of Christ. Righteousness and life came through Christ! That's verses fifteen through seventeen. Finally, we have the Offense of Adam against the righteousness of Christ in verses eighteen through twenty-one. Through Adam, there came into the human race sin and death. Verse twelve speaks of that first sin of Adam; not his second, third or fourth sin – and not your sin or my sin, either. That *first* sin in the Garden of Eden brought death to himself and his progeny.

You and I are sinners in four different ways: One, we are sinners because we commit acts of sin. Two, we're sinners by nature; sinning doesn't make us sinners – we sin because we are sinners – naturally. Third, we are under sin in this world, and we are in the state of sin! God has declared the entire human family unto sin, friends! Fourth, we are sinners by imputation; Adam acted on behalf of the entire human race. On the basis of that Federal Headship of Adam, God can now, based on the Federal Headship of Christ, save those who will trust His Son's redemptive work! I understand this is a little difficult, but let's stick with it.

This is what theologians have labeled the Federal Headship – not me. Let's just get a crash course understanding of what we're talking about. Adam and Christ are both representatives of the human race. Adam is the natural head of the human race. With that statement, it is impossible then to call yourself a Christian and accept any part of evolution. Adam's one act of disobedience plunged his entire offspring into a life of sin. Man has a sinful nature, as we have clearly seen. If you don't believe in the total depravity of man, then you don't know my family, friends. My children must have gotten some bad gene from their mother, apparently. Well, that sin of Adam was made over to us.

This doesn't mean we are all guilty of some ongoing sinful act or willful rebellion in our lives. On the other hand – maybe you are. All have sinned in Adam! We are so vitally connected with the first father of the human race that we were sinners before we were even born; because we were all in Adam. I understand many of you cannot accept these truths, but that's the way God wrote it down on our lives. Remember, Levi paid tithes to Melchisedek long before he was born.

Hebrews 7:9 *And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham ~*

Make no mistake: Adam's sin is imputed unto us. What Adam did, we did! *Even if* God had left us in the Garden of Eden, we would have lived there with a sinful nature. Do you think man would have done better in the Garden of Eden with a sinful nature than Adam did in the Garden without a

sinful nature? I don't think so, my friends. Adam disobeyed God and that one act of disobedience brought us all under the curse of sin; sin is imputed to us. I know many people disagree. Well, they have a right to be wrong; because our safari through Romans has already taught the righteousness of Christ is imputed unto us because of His death on the cross. Christ is the Head of a new race and of a New Redeemed Man through His resurrection. The church is His body and is His New Creation. The *only* foundation the church has is Christ; she is His New Creation by water and by blood! So, in the church we have a new race and a new creation!

1 Corinthians 15:45 *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly ~*

Christ is the second Adam and there will not be a third. Christ is the last Adam. There will be myriad man after Christ, the Second Man – but Christ isn't the second Adam – He is the last Adam. Christ is the head of a new race. Now, that is all merely preliminary information, and it should make the upcoming several reports very meaningful if you are paying attention. It is a little difficult to teach, but it is thrilling to try. We gained much more in Christ than we lost in Adam.

1 Corinthians 15:21 *For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive ~*

One act of willful disobedience by Adam brought death to the human family, et al. It isn't even our own sin that brings us death; the infant that dies hasn't committed a sinful act, but that little baby belongs to the race of Adam. In Adam all die. We know that God didn't intend for man to die. God had a much better plan in store for mankind and He still does today....

13 *(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.*

~ We found sin in the world in chapter three of Genesis; but sin was not a transgression at that time. Sin was merely a rebellion against God. This is the reason God did not exact the death penalty from Cain regarding the murder of Abel. Yes, that was a dastardly deed, but God put a mark of protection on Cain. No law had been given at that time in Scriptures. When the flood came upon the earth, the world was saturated in sin! They were incurable and incorrigible; God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth. Every imagination of the thoughts of man was only evil continually. That's Genesis chapter six verse five. Those imaginations didn't break any of the Ten Commandments, because there weren't any commandments given yet. They were still judged, though — because they were sinners! The bottom line is we belong to a lost race in the human family — and that's difficult to accept. Well, we're not lovely people and man is NOT moving onward and upward forever. Everything is not getting better around us in this world today. Even the very thought life of the natural man is degenerating.

Frighteningly, God is not obligated to save anyone, either. Many people will tell you they don't want to be saved. The condition of mankind is lost and shut out from God! That great truth is so difficult for our minds to soak up because we also have that same lost nature! Men love to pat their friends on the back and tell them that they are wonderful people in that new nature when they aren't wonderful! Most have no idea how to harness any power in the Spirit of God. In fact, some of them are terrible people, constantly grieving the Holy Spirit, period....

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

~ Death is personified in this passage by Paul. Paul says death had reigned like a king from Adam to Moses when there was no law. These people didn't break a single commandment; because no commandments had been given. Nonetheless, man is still deemed a sinner, a curse by which came death.

Death is presented in a three-fold manner in Scripture. One is physical death, which refers only to the body; a separation of the spirit from the flesh. That death is mandated as the result of Adam's sin. We inherit our nature from Adam, and we are alienated from God – dead in trespasses and sins – that's what Scripture says about our condition. Secondly, there is spiritual death. That is a separation from God in this life as the result of willful rebellion. The Lord Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the Life! He that heareth My Word, though he were dead he shall live...."* – does that bother you? Some people are spiritually dead. Well, there is a third death: eternal separation from God....

15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

~ Having complete confidence in the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have a much greater hope than a Garden of Eden. Hebrews chapter eleven tells us all of those who are listed died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off. Ok, this leg of our safari has been one of those exceedingly difficult passages to traverse. Remember, one transgression plunged the entire race into sin. One act of obedience by Christ on the cross makes it possible for mankind to be saved. That presents two kingdoms. The kingdom of death is Adam's, and we all belong to that; and in Adam all died. Then, there is the kingdom of the Lamb's Book of Life; are you written in it? These are the two kingdoms; and death reigns over one, but Christ reigns over the other — and Christ is the One Who holds the keys of hell and of death....

16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

~ Accompanying the Mosaic System of Levitical Law was a God-given sacrificial system. Christ came to fulfill that part of the law, too, of course. Mankind has an opportunity to be delivered from the guilt of his sin. However, man is not delivered from the nature of sin until he dies in the flesh. We live in a world where sin reigns. Satan is the prince going up and down the earth seeking whom he may devour at this moment. Sin reigns to death, or we wouldn't need cemeteries, friends. This has been a most difficult leg of our expedition, so we'll stop right here. God offers salvation to the lost race of mankind. This is what is known as imputation of sin, but it holds potential sanctification, also. That's amazing. By this gift men are free to live for God....

21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord ~