

Adam and the Reign of Death

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 5:12-21.

B. All our righteousness revolves around the sacrifice of Christ.

C. The deed of one man can have such a wide and timeless impact on the world.

II. Adam and the reign of death.

A. Stages in the history of man.

1. By one man sin entered the world. Paul saw Adam as acting for all of humanity. (Joshua 5)

2. Death came as a result of sin.

a. This refers to the sin of Adam.

b. Our death is not the result of our personal sin but our sin “in Adam.” (Ephesians 2, Matthew 7)

c. We are all depraved by nature. (Psalm 51, Jeremiah 17:4, John 8:44, 1 John 3, 1 Timothy 3:14)

3. Death passed to all men.

B. Sin is only imputed when there is a law. God cannot condemn a person when there is no standard to hold people accountable. However, death reigned as a result of Adam’s sin.

III. Christ and the reign of life.

A. Christ had different motives. Christ had a good motive, Adam had an evil one.

B. Christ’s deed had a different effect—Adam brought death and Christ brought life.

C. Humanity fell by one sin, but many sins redeemed us. A billion sins could not stop the recovering power of grace.

D. As a result of grace, believers reign over death in life.

IV. We must decide which person we belong to—Christ or Adam.

Application Questions:

1. Why do we die?

2. How does the work of Christ compare and contrast with the work of Adam?

3. What do you think it means to be “in Christ” and “in Adam” in light of the message? Explain.
