

POWER HOUR

5/17/2026

Lesson Text:
Romans 5:12-21

Related Scriptures:
Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-6, 22-24;
5:1-27; Luke 3:23-4:13; &
1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 42-49

“THE SECOND ADAM”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:19 NLT

Time: A.D. 57

Place: from Corinth

Romans 5:12-21 NLT

¹² When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. ¹³ Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. ¹⁴ Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. ¹⁵ But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁶ And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. ¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. ¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed

God, many will be made righteous. ²⁰ God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. ²¹ So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

INTRODUCTION

Much money is spent trying to prolong life. While great medical advances have been made, no secret enables us to live forever. Death is a tragic consequence of sin, but it is not the end. Paul reminds us that our earthly bodies will pass away, but in the Second Adam-Christ-there is grace and eternal life.

1. The coming of death (Romans 5:12-14). Adam lived in communion with God. The serpent deceived Eve. Adam, who was with her, ate the forbidden fruit as well. God declared that death would reign as a result (Genesis 3:19). That death would not be the end, however. As far back as (Genesis 3:15), we see the promise of the Second Adam, who would crush the serpent's head.

Sin and death were present before the law-though God showed grace before the law was given. That does not mean that all sin was excused before God gave the Mosaic Law (Paul already argued that the law is on our hearts (Romans 2:12-16)).

2. The coming of grace (Romans 5:15-19). Having reviewed the history and consequences of the first Adam, Paul launched into a comparison with the Second Adam. The offense of the first Adam led to the death for every person born after him, but the obedience of the Second Adam led to abundant eternal life for all who believe. Death was earned. Adam had failed in his calling to work and keep the Garden of Eden and obey the Lord. As a result, we all experience sin and death.

But Jesus freely gave us the gift of grace. We did not deserve it, and we certainly did not earn it. Righteousness and obedience are not our own but are given to us despite the fact that we were once enemies of God until we trusted in Jesus. Jesus is the only one who lived a perfect life. He succeeded where Adam

Failed, resisting temptation and perfectly fulfilling the law (Luke 4:1-13). Because of His obedience to the Father's will, we too can now live obedient lives. Thanks be to God for His abundance of grace and the transformation that comes with it!

3. The increase of grace (Romans 5:20-21). Because of the Second Adam, death is not the end of the story for believers. No one could ever perfectly keep the law, so all people deserve death and separation from the Holy God. But Jesus fulfilled the law for us in order to reconcile us to God. By doing so, we see the increase of grace. The more we understand how dead all people are in sin, the more amazing the gospel. Not only have we been saved from death, but we also get to experience communion with God again. One day, our natural bodies will perish, but they will be raised again with new life (1 Corinthians 15:42-49). We do not need to try to live forever on this earth; our hope is far greater than that!

PRACTICAL POINTS

All people are born sinners (Romans 5:12).

The law made sin more heinous because it listed specific rules that God did not want His people to break (vss. 13-14).

Although Adam's sin brought condemnation and death to all people. Jesus' free gift brings righteousness and life to all who believe (vss. 15-17)!

Grace triumphs over sin because it brings true life (Romans 1:20-21).

True wisdom is found only in Christ (Romans 1:22; 1 Corinthians 1:30).

CONCLUSION

Death entered the world because of the disobedience of the first Adam. On the other hand, all who trust in the Second Adam will have eternal life.

QUESTION(S)

1. Besides humanity, what else did Adam's sin impact?
2. Why can no one claim that condemnation due to Adam's sin is unfair?
3. How did the law make sin clearer?
4. What does it mean that Adam is a "figure" of the coming Christ (Romans 5:14)?

5. What is one similarity between Adam and Jesus?
6. Although Adam's sin spread automatically, why is the same not the case for Christ's gift of grace?

Next week, We look at how Jesus is **"The End Of The Law"** for believers.

Romans 10:1-13.

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