

# JUSTIFIED BY FAITH

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ROMANS 5:12-21 • TV427A

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by

**HENRY T. MAHAN**

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### **Romans 5:12-21**

*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: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

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I'm going to be speaking to you today, from the **Fifth Chapter of Romans**. I'll be reading several verses of scripture and I would like very much for you to get your Bible and follow along with me as I speak to you on the subject: "**JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.**" If we pay attention, and if the Spirit of God is pleased to speak through me today, we'll learn some things about this subject: "**JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.**"

Will you open your Bible to the **Fifth Chapter of Romans**? Here is our text: **verse 19:** "*For as by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners. So, by the obedience of one man, shall many be made righteous.*"

We are in spiritual darkness; we are in condemnation, under a sentence of death because of sin. We are separated from God. Someone might ask you personally, how did man get in this spiritual darkness that we are in and how did we get into the mess we are in? How was man separated from God? Why are our hearts, wills and our souls so full of sin and so full of rebellion and so full of corruption and enmity against God? "*The natural mind is enmity against God.*" The natural mind is enmity against holiness and righteousness and truth. What happened? What brought all of this about and what put us in this state of darkness, death, sin, guilt and corruption?

Turn to the passage in **Romans Chapter Five**. According to the scriptures, the reason that we are in the mess we are in is because of our father Adam. God made one man; He made Adam. He said, "*Let us make man,*" and He made Adam. He called Adam (red earth). Adam was taken from the dust of the earth.

He was created in the image of God without sin. The scripture says, "*Holy and upright.*" Adam was the head of the whole human race. That was the beginning of the human race when God made Adam. He was the only man that God ever made. All others came directly from him. We can trace our roots right back to Adam.

Adam is called the federal head, he's called the beginning of the human race, and he is, according to the scripture, the representative of the whole human race. As our head, we stood in him. When he fell, we fell in him. When he sinned, we sinned in him. Adam sinned and we sinned in him. He was the head of the human race. We were all in his loins. Through him, sin, death and judgment passed upon all men.

You may say, "Well preacher, can you make good on that?" I certainly can, if you will look at **Romans Chapter Five**. God made Adam. When he made Adam, He made the whole human race. All of us stood in him. He represents us. He is the head of the whole human race. When he sinned, we sinned. When he fell, we fell. When he died spiritually, we died spiritually.

Let me show you that. Turn to **Romans Chapter Five** and let's look at **verse 12**. I want you to listen. If words can mean anything at all, these words are clear and plain. It says in **Romans 5:12:** "*For by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin. And so, death*

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*passed upon all men. For, in him, all sinned.*” Do you see that? That is pretty clear isn’t it?

All right, look at **verse 15** in the same Chapter. I’m just going to read part of this verse and part of a few others because I am going to come back later and read the other parts. The first part refers to our relationship with Adam. The scriptures are going to tell us how we stood in him, how we fell in him and it will tell us of his representation. It will be telling us that because of his sin, darkness, sin and death was passed upon us.

Listen to **Romans 5:15**, “*Through the offense of one all are dead.*” God said Adam, “In the day you eat of the forbidden tree, you will die.” Adam ate and he died. He died spiritually. He didn’t die physically. He lived many years after that, (physically), but he did die, spiritually.

You can see the results of that fall, and the results of that sin. Before Adam fell, he walked with God. After he ate the forbidden fruit, he ran from God. Before Adam fell, before he sinned, he was naked, and didn’t know that he was. He had no thought of sin, and no imagination of sin. Both the man and his wife had no clothes on. They weren’t embarrassed. They didn’t feel any guilt at all.

Before he fell, God gave him this precious wife, a helpmate. He called her Eve, the mother of all. He talked about his care for her. But after he fell, he wanted God to blame her for his condition. He says, “It’s not my fault, it is the woman you gave me.” He hid from God, and he ran from God. He began to sew fig leaves together to cover himself. He tried to cover his nakedness. He had anger against his wife. He had self-righteousness. He tried to excuse himself because of his fall (his sin).

This is all the result of death, spiritual death. There is lack of holiness, and lack of righteousness, and the condition of Adam. These things are passed on to us. The reason you understand what I am talking about, is because that is the way we are.

Look at **verse 17 in Romans Five**, “*By one man’s offence, death reigned.*” Who was the one man? It was Adam. When did it happen? It happened in the beginning. Where did it happen? It happened in the Garden of Eden. Why did it happen? It was the result of Satan’s temptation. Adam listened, and Eve listened to Satan and they rebelled against God. “*So, death passed upon all men.*” Isn’t that clear?

Someone might ask, “How did we get into the mess that we are in and how did spiritual death, condemnation and corruption pass upon all men? Why is our nature like it is? Why is it so much easier to do wrong than to do right? Why does sin come so easily for us?” Because our nature is sin. It is a principle that lives within us. We got it from our father, Adam.

Look at **verse 18**: “*For by the offence of one man, judgment came upon all men to condemnation.*” It was by one man’s offence. The text that I read to you a moment ago, in

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**verse 19** says, “*For by one man’s disobedience, many were made (became) sinners.*” By natural generation, (conception and birth) sin is passed on to all men, through Adam.

David wrote about it in **Psalm 51**: He said, “*In sin my mother conceived me. I was shapen in iniquity. I was brought forth speaking lies. I came forth from the womb, telling lies.*” I was estranged from God, (with all these potentials, possibilities and principle of sin within me). My friends, nothing could be clearer than this fact. I don’t know how to make it plainer. I don’t know how to make it clearer. “*By one man, (isn’t that what it said), sin entered into the world and death by sin.*” There, by sin, death and darkness, disease, and condemnation, passed upon all men. For, in that one man everybody sinned. That is what it says in the scripture. I just read it to you.

I wish you would “*Search the scriptures to see if these things be so.*” It is not a matter of what I think or what some other preachers think, or what you think. It is not a matter of our tradition or what our fathers have handed down. Someone might say, “Well, that is not what I have been taught.” Well, that is not the issue. The issue is to answer that question, How did we get into the mess that we are in? How did we get separated from God? How did death and condemnation become our way of life?

God didn’t make man that way. Man wasn’t made to die. It says, “*God made him in holiness. God made him in uprightness. God made him in His own image.*” But, he sought out many evil inventions. You see, I read it to you over and over again in **Romans 5; verses 12, 15, 17, 18, and 19.** “*By one man, sin entered. Through the offence of one man, all are dead. By the offence of one man, judgment came upon all men. By one man’s disobedience, many were made sinners.*” That is where it started and that is where it came from. That is how it came upon us.

Now then, here is the second question: Someone might ask you, “Well, how can we be delivered out of this mess we are in? Is there a way of life? Is there a way of forgiveness and justification? Is there a way of deliverance from this state of death, darkness and condemnation? Is there life for death? Is there light for darkness? Is there deliverance from condemnation?” Well, according to the same scriptures, it is right there where you are looking in **Romans Five.**

The way out of the mess we are in, the way out of death and condemnation and darkness is really by the same way we got into this mess, by representation and by substitution. It was by the work of another. In other words, Paul wrote in **First Corinthians 15**, “*By man came death, by man came the resurrection of the dead. By one man sin entered this world.*” By one man, (the God-man), righteousness, holiness and life came into this world. Christ said, “*I am come that they might have life.*”

Now, let’s look at some of the scriptures. That is what it says in **First Corinthians 15**, “*As in Adam we died, so in Christ we are made alive.*” By man came death and by man came the resurrection. Now, listen to the same scripture. I am going to turn back to **Romans Chapter Five.** I’m now reading the second part of each of these verses. Note it there in

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your Bible. Take your pen and underscore it and take notes. Study these things. That is what the noble Bereans did. *“They searched the scriptures to see if these things be so.”*

Now, in **Romans 5:15**: *“For if through the offence, the guilt 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 to many.”* By one man’s sin and disobedience and rebellion, we became sinners. He represented us. It was imputed and imparted to us a nature of evil, even so, by another man, by the second Adam. *“The first Adam is of the earth, earthy. The second Adam is the Lord from heaven.”* So, by the obedience of another man, the God-man, and by the sacrifice and righteousness of another man, we can have holiness. We got sin through Adam and we get righteousness through Christ.

Look at **verse 17**; look at it! *“For if by one man’s offence, death reigned by one, much more, they which receive abundance and the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one man, Jesus Christ.”* Do you see it there? Look at **verse 19**, *“By one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners.”* In other words, everybody who was in Adam’s loins when he sinned they died in him. Who is that?

Well, that is you and me and that is every human being. That is everybody in America, Australia, England, Mexico, Canada, Spain, France and Africa. It is everybody. Our roots can be traced back to Adam. *“So, by Adam’s sin, by one man, sin entered the world, and death by sin so death passed upon all people and all men. All men come short of the glory of God.”* By that one man’s disobedience, many were made sinners. It was everybody who was in him and everybody who was represented by him. It was everyone who was in that covenant of works of which he was the representative.

Do you see that word, “so”? *“Even so, (by the same token), by the obedience of one, shall the many be made righteous.”* In other words, Christ Jesus was a representative man. He came into this world as our Federal Head, as our Representative. God sent Him as a Covenant Head of a people.

I don’t know how it can be made any plainer. I just do not know. Christ was the second Adam; that is what He is called. *“The first man is of the earth, earthy, the second man is the Lord from heaven.”* In the first man Adam, the scripture says, *“In him we died, the second man, Christ, is the Lord from heaven and in Him we live.”*

In **Galatians Four, verse 4** it says this, *“when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman.”* God made the first man out of the dust of the earth. He said, *“Dust thou art, to dust shalt thou return.”* That first man was made of the dust of the earth and everybody came from his loins. Even the woman was made from that first man.

God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and took a rib from his side and made a woman. She was under his headship; he represented her. We came from the first man, Adam. The second Adam is the Lord from heaven. *“He was made of a woman.”* The

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Holy Spirit came upon that virgin and conceived in her the Son of God. God prepared a body for him.

I want you to look what happened in the garden. I'm going to be getting really personal and I want you to listen carefully. If you will look what happened in the garden, when that first man who represented sin in all of us, you will see that this state of guilt, condemnation and death was universal.

I had a fellow come to our church one time. It was years ago. He went away and said this, "That is the first preacher I ever heard to say publicly from the pulpit that he is a sinner." My friend, that ought not to be! The scripture says, "*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" The scripture says, "*Death passed upon all men.*" It says, "*All we like sheep have gone astray. We've turned everyone to his own way. There is none that doeth good, no not one. There is no difference between the Jew and the Gentile, all have sinned.*" This fall of Adam was universal.

All who are in him, and all who are by him, and all who are from him, and are of him, all are universally sinners. God says, "*From the soul of our feet, to the top of our heads, we are sinners.*" There is nothing good in us. "*There are none good, no not one. There are none that understandeth. They all do fade as the leaf. Even our righteousnesses in God's sight, are filthy rags.*" That's true!

Let me shock you! This state of death and darkness and sin is not only universal but also it is unchangeable. It is unchangeable by any human means or by any human effort. It is unchangeable by any deeds, works, and religion or by any profession. You can't change your old heart. God can change your heart, but you can't. You can't do anything about your record. God can, but you can't. You cannot change your state of darkness, death, wickedness and condemnation. "*By the deeds of the law, no flesh shall be justified.*" That is what God says. "*It's not by works of righteousness which we have done. In the flesh dwelleth no good thing. In the flesh, no man can please God.*"

What happened in the garden as a result of Adam's sin and rebellion brought condemnation, guilt, sin and death. It passed upon all men universally. "*There is none that doeth good, there is none that seeketh after God, there is none that understandeth and there is none without sin. If you say you have no sin, you are a liar and the truth is not in you. If you say you have not sinned, you make God a liar.*" You are deceived, my friend and you are a sinner.

The disciples asked the Lord this question, "*Well, who can be saved?*" Do you know what the Lord answered? He said, "*With men it is impossible.*" It is impossibility for sinners to save themselves. Spiritual death is universal, spiritual death is unchangeable, as far as human effort and works are concerned.

Do you know how Paul described us in **Ephesians Chapter 2:12**? He said, "*At that time, you were without Christ having no hope and without God in this world.*" Now, let's go

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back to that question that the disciples asked the Master. “*Then who can be saved?*” Our Lord said, “*With men it is impossible*, but I thank God that He added the next statement, “*but with God all things are possible.*” What I can’t do, God can do. That is what I am saying. You can’t change that heart of yours, but God can give you a new heart. You can’t change your record, but God can send His Son, down here and wipe it out and cover it. He can blot it out and give you a new record, and a new name.

You can’t change yourself, but God can change you. Listen to **Ephesians Two**, “*You hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins. In times past, you walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air. It is the Spirit that now worketh in you, the children of disobedience. Among whom we all had our conversations in times past in the lust of our flesh, in the lust of our minds and in the pride of life. We were children of wrath, even as others.*”

Oh, but God! There is impossibility of restoration and the impossibility of change. The impossibility of deliverance, “*But God who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses and sins hath quickened us together with Christ. By grace are you saved and has raised us up together. He hath made us to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” Yes, with men it is impossible, but not impossible with God. “*For with God all things are possible.*”

But, the key is here. The law has to be honored. So, God sent a man to do it. Justice has got to be satisfied. So, God sent a man that could do it. Do you see what I am saying? “*By one man, sin entered the world, death by sin, so death passed upon all men. By one man’s disobedience we were all made sinners. By one man’s sin, came judgment and condemnation and it passed upon all men.*”

God’s Holy Law still stands. God said that it must be obeyed (any man who is justified, any man who is accepted, and any man whom God receives), that Holy Law of God has to be honored and satisfied. “*With men it is impossible.*”

God sent the man, the man Christ Jesus. The God-man came into this world. It is not impossible with Him. “*He was made in the likeness of flesh, tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.*” He honored the law. He said, “*I always do those things that please my Father. Which of you can charge me with sin?*”

Even Pilot said, “*I find no fault with Him.*” The heavenly Father said, “*This is My Son in whom I am well pleased.*” Read **First Corinthians 15**, for me. Read that some time. That Adam, that second Adam, the Lord from heaven, honored the law fully. “*By one man’s disobedience we were made sinners, by that other man (Jesus Christ) and His obedience, we were made righteous.*” He honored the law.

What about justice? What about God’s unbending, uncompromising, and yielding justice? “*The soul that sinneth shall surely die.*” Do you think God will take that back? He can’t and be God. All right, “*With men it is impossible.*” We’ve sinned; we’ve dishonored

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God's law. We have bucked His justice and we have to meet Him head on. Wait a minute; hold it! That man, Jesus Christ came and He met that justice on the cross of Calvary and He paid the debt in full!

The debt is paid:

Jesus paid it all  
All the debt I owe,  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow.

There is a way out of the mess that we are in. There is a way for God to be just and justify folks like you and me. There is a way for man to be clean that is born of a woman. Job asked how? There is a way to God; there is a way to righteousness. There is a way to righteousness for folks like you and me and fellowship with God.

That way is Jesus Christ! That way is by the righteousness of the Son of God. It is by the death of the Son of God. He said, "*I am the way, I am the truth and I am the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me. With men it is impossible but with God all things are possible.*"

Peter spoke in the **Book of Acts, Chapter 13**, he said, "*Be it known unto you, men and brethren, that through this man, is preached unto you the forgiveness of sin.*" By man came death and by man came life. "*And, through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sin.*" And by this man, all who believe, are justified freely, forgiven and absolutely delivered. He's delivered from all things, all sin, all evil, all rebellion, and all death from which you could not be justified by works or by the law. Can you believe? Has God given you faith to believe?

Oh, I tell you, that is good news and that is our gospel. "*We're justified by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness. It will be given to us if we can believe on Him who justified the ungodly...