
The Roman Road – Part 2
Sins Equality
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The Well Church of Lewisville

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Key Verse: Romans 3:23

Overview

This is the continuation of the Roman Road, Part 2. The Roman Road is often taught as the process to receiving salvation through Jesus Christ. Another important lesson in evangelizing the lost is that we must first come to grips with Paul's statement in Romans 3:23.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

This is a really difficult truth for some to accept and it raises many questions, especially to one seeking to know the Lord.

Let's look at this closely.

What does Paul mean all have sinned?

(1) Imputed Sin

The first question one has to ask is this: Are all people guilty for Adam and Eve's sin?

According to Scripture, the answer is Yes.

Read Romans 5:12

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

(Q1) According to Romans 5:12, sin came into the world through Adam.

We refer to this as the doctrine of “original sin”, which means the guilt of Adam’s sin, was imputed upon the entire human race.

Paul declares that since everyone dies, everyone has received the sentence that was carried down to Adam. God said in Genesis 3:22, *“He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever”*. This was the sentence for sin.

Paul further confirms this concept or imputed guilt in **Romans 5:14**:

14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

Mankind has been given the guilty verdict of Adam’s original sin and death is the result.

(2) Degrees of Sin

There are many who will not accept that they are guilty as charged for the crimes of Adam. Many look at this and cry “unfair”!

For example, what about those who are genuinely good people, who care for others, who help the needy, and have a loving nature? How can they be considered guilty of sin, especially for the sins of one Adam?

(A) Adam was the first man and Eve the first woman. They were considered the head of the human race, and therefore the sentence given to them was carried through all of their offspring, from which the entire human race comes.

(a) Once Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, “the eyes of both of them were opened” (Genesis 3:7).

(b) Man inherited this knowledge of good and evil and therefore we know right from wrong and are guilty when we choose to do wrong.

(B) (Q2) Whether a good person or not, there is not one who is without sin. And this is not Adam’s sin, but the sins that have been committed by each individual.

Psalm 143:2 confirms this:

² Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.

Proverbs 20:9 says,

“Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure;
I am clean and without sin”?”

And we are accountable to God for our own sins, not for Adams sins, but our own

Romans 2:6 Says:

God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”

(C) So do minor sins deserve the same severe punishment as major sins?

(Q3) We must understand that sin of any magnitude separates us from God.

This was Satan’s plot n the Garden of Eden. Since the devil rebelled and was cast down to earth, he has attempted to separate man from God, which is not that hard to do in the world in which we live.

Quote from C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis' book *The Screwtape Letters*, we read the story of an older demon counseling a younger demon. At one point in the book, we read these words:

"You will say that these are very small sins, and doubtless, like all young tempters, you are anxious to be able to report spectacular wickedness. But do remember, the only thing that matters is the extent to which you separate the man from the Enemy [God]. It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to keep the man away from the Light.... Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one—the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."

(From a sermon by Billy Ricks, *Perspective: The Destructive Power of Sin*, 8/14/2011)

Job 4:17

(Q3A) 17 'Can a mortal be more righteous than God?

Can even a strong man be more pure than his Maker?

James 1:13

13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

Deuteronomy 23:14

4 For the Lord your God moves about in your camp to protect you and to deliver your enemies to you. Your camp must be holy, so that he will not see among you anything indecent and turn away from you.

Sin is Sin

A few years ago, right here in Texas, there were two men who robbed a bank. One wore a ski mask and the other did not. They both were captured and ultimately appeared before the judge for sentencing. The one without the mask could have stated, "Look, I know that robbing the bank was the wrong thing to do, but at least I was not hypocritical about it. I didn't try to cover up who I was. I was open and honest. That should be worth something as far as leniency is concerned." The judge sentenced both men to the same time in prison.

In other words, sin is sin in the eyes of the Lord.

(3) Is what we inherited from Adam really unfair?

(Q4) God's actions and His decisions are always just:

Job 8:3-4

Does God pervert justice?

Does the Almighty pervert what is right?

*4 When your children sinned against him,
he gave them over to the penalty of their sin.*

Job 34:11-12

He repays everyone for what they have done;

he brings on them what their conduct deserves.

*12 It is unthinkable that God would do wrong,
that the Almighty would pervert justice.*

God's plans for us are good plans. His love has been shown in abundant ways.

Romans 8:28

(Q5) 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

(Q6) It is not God's desire for any to perish, but to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

(B) No sin, no grace.

If we cannot accept the guilt for our sin then how can we accept the grace of our atonement?

Read Romans 5:15, 18-19

15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Without free will, how shall God judge the world? Without grace, how shall God save the world? (author unknown).

Martin Luther:

Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Now choose what you want.

Conclusion

Paul, once and for all, rejects the notion that the law and efforts under the law can release God's power or Spirit. Nor can they promote God's gracious dealing with humankind, as the "false teachers" had been suggesting. To be captivated by the Jewish ritual of circumcision was to reject the legitimacy of a spiritual experience by faith. Faith alone is our justification. All who trust in Jesus Christ are saved.