



ROMANS Part 44

Chapter 5:15-19

Greater Than Adam, Part 3



But not as the offense, thus also the grace. For if, by the offense of the one, the many died, much rather the grace of God and the gratuity in grace, which is of the One Man, Jesus Christ, to the many superabounds. And not as through one act of sinning is the gratuity. For, indeed, the judgment is out of one into condemnation, yet

the grace is out of many offenses into a just award.

For if, by the offense of the one, death reigns through the one, much rather, those obtaining the superabundance of grace and the gratuity of righteousness shall be reigning in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Consequently, then, as it was through one offense for all mankind for condemnation, thus also it is through one just award for all mankind for life's justifying. For even as, through the disobedience of the one man, the many were constituted sinners, thus also, through the obedience of the One, the many shall be constituted just.

THE EFFECT OF CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION ON THE HUMAN RACE

If Jesus Christ *only* returned the entire race to the state it enjoyed in the Garden of Eden, then most of us would consider Him a success. Put us all—every descendant of Adam—back on the banks of the Tigris and the Euphrates. Broaden our borders. Give us green grasses, luscious fruits, deep blue waters. Banish every thorn and thistle. Outlaw sin. Disengage death. Save the serpent. Make lions and tigers and bears our pets. Who would not laud Jesus Christ forever for such a return to paradise?

But Paul's message, above, is *not* this. It's better. Jesus Christ must *at least* undo the effects of Adam's sin, bringing everyone back to where they were before sin and death ruined them. That would make Jesus Christ Adam's equal. It would also slap Him in the face, because Jesus Christ is Adam's superior. How dare we make Him his equal? (Christianity makes Him his inferior. I'll be illustrating *this* monstrosity momentarily.) Paul would blanch at the very thought.

In these verses from Romans chapter five, Paul plainly states that the grace of God exceeds the offence of Adam (verse 15), and that the act of grace, through

Jesus Christ's faith, exceeds Adam's sin (verse 16). If Jesus Christ merely returns the race to where it was, how has His work on the cross exceeded Adam's sin? How could Paul write "much rather" when comparing the grace of God to Adam's screw-up? He would have instead written "just like," or "equal to," or "the same as."

Then there is the Christian viewpoint. The result of orthodox teaching, that is, the specter of millions of people burning in hell forever, forces an honest person to confess that Jesus Christ's sacrifice was "not as good as," "inferior to," and "lacking the universality of" Adam's offense. But because hypocrisy is the hallmark of the Christian "faith," we will never hear the words, "not as good as," "inferior to," or "lacking the universality of." Belonging to the world's most popular religion requires one to *say*, "Christ is greater than Adam," but one is in no way obligated to believe it. In fact, one is warned never to believe it, upon pain of disfellowship. Those who do manage, by the grace of God, to believe it, are looked at askance, belittled, marginalized, and eventually banned from the religion that is more popular than reality television.

THE REACH

Adam obviously reaches everyone. Christ? He barely reaches anyone. That's the message. That's what the world's most popular religion teaches. This is why it's popular. One has to jump through hoops to be saved. For some reason, people like this. It was easy for Adam to sin; it's hard for any modern person to "believe in Jesus," because of the hoops. Some of the hoops are:

- ▶ the right attitude
- ▶ true repentance
- ▶ approaching an altar
- ▶ saying the right "sinner's prayer"
- ▶ being baptized
- ▶ going to church
- ▶ staying true to God
- ▶ producing fruits worthy of repentance
- ▶ having a burden for souls
- ▶ speaking in tongues

If Adam had to do all of this for us to become sinners, we would still be lollygagging in Eden.

Go to any church and see. Probe behind the whitewash. See behind the masks. Ask difficult questions. Poke the corpses. Sniff the rotting bodies. This is what drives normal people from church: the God there is weak. He can't keep up with the devil. He wants to love you, but can't. He needs

your help. He needs your money. He is dark, foggy, humorless. The so-called savior is weaker than Adam.

The god of religion makes people want to kill themselves. Others incessantly drink or smoke. Some people turn to hard drugs. Those who can afford it take prescription drugs for depression. Blame church. Blame religion. Blame the underlying guilt shed abroad in the hearts of honest seekers turned away by the terrifying God in the "happy" place. Society fears what it does not know. It does not know God. It does not know His love. Society thinks the mainstream Christian message is the true God. They've never heard differently. They rightly conclude this god to be a loser. They know of no alternative. So they run and hide. They bury their pain. Their last chance was that church, and it failed them. Their first savior is weaker than



“Their last chance was that church, and it failed them.”

the world's first sinner, who condemned them. So they lead lives of quiet desperation. To believe the Arminian mainstream Christian viewpoint, human stubbornness proves too much for God. To believe the Calvinists, God premeditatedly refuses to pull from the well of condemnation everyone Adam drowned there. A handful satisfies him. He casually looks upon the eternal burning of the rest.

Let's plug the Frankenstein "Arminian/Calvin" misreading of Romans into Paul's pen and see how sick it

sounds. Let's measure the misery. We may as well do this. Christians read it that way anyway, no matter what the passage says. Let's make it say what they think it says. Let's make it say what non-hypocrites revolt against. Let's make it say what only brainwashed religionists deny it says, even while they insist in doctrine that this is precisely what it says, or should say.

They're not going to like this. It's too honest. Without whitewash, anyone reading will see the bones and smell the rotting flesh. I want the bones exposed and the flesh fanned so that readers will avoid for the rest of their lives these sepulchers of misinformation and depression. I want people to seek truth and find it. For people to find truth, I must expose the error and rebuke the teachers of the error. In some circles, this burnishes my reputation. Oh, well. Not only will I strip away the whitewash, I will brandish, within the tomb, a flashlight. Such rot. Such stink. (Parental advisories are now in effect.) If only a fraction of the race is saved—as Christianity insists—then Adam is stronger and therefore more universal than Christ. Does this offend anyone's spiritual ear? How could this be? Forget your ears now, and plug your noses.

But not as the offense, thus also the grace; the offense is actually *stronger* than the grace. For if, by the offense of the one, the many died, the grace of God and the gratuity in grace, which is of the One Man, Jesus Christ, can barely reach a fraction of the same many.

And not as through one act of sinning is the gratuity; the one act of sinning is *stronger* than the gratuity. For, indeed, the judgment is out of one into condemnation, yet the grace cannot spread itself wide enough to even come near the undoing of Adam's universal condemnation.

Consequently, then, as it was through one offense for all mankind for condemnation, thus also it is through one just award that Jesus Christ attempted to justify all mankind, yet fell short.

For even though, through the disobedience of the one man, the many were constituted sinners, the obedience of the One Man, Christ, failed to break through the corporate disobedience of the majority of Adam's descendants.

LET'S TALK NUMBERS

If the score of a basketball game is 116-7, who wins the basketball game? The team with the 116 points wins. This point system works for most every game except golf, but never mind golf. In most sporting events, the team or

individual who scores the most points (via goals, runs, performance points or touchdowns), takes the trophy.

If Adam and Christ are competing to see who can get more people into his respective camp, then who takes the trophy? It's as simple as checking the numbers. Paul says that Christ wins. But no. Christ more than wins, because the grace is "much more" than Adam's sin. The worst that Christ can do is tie. (Christianity cannot even abide a tie. If you even suggest that Christ *ties* Adam, you are a heretic and will be shamed out the door.) If Jesus Christ merely ties Adam, Paul would consider it a disaster. This would make Jesus Christ equal to Adam. If Jesus Christ is merely equal than Adam—assuming that there have been 180,654, 577, 801 people ever born (it's an arbitrary number, don't Google it)—then the score of the "game" would be:

Adam condemns: 180,654,577,101

Christ saves: 180,654,577,101

Paul would look at the above numbers and spit. If Christ is to be greater than Adam, this is the least of what the Savior must and will do. All religion spits differently into the eye of a Christ having to at least tie Adam to avoid eternal inferiority. They hate even the tie. Not one member of any religion infecting this cult-heavy planet could or would defend the above score. They would present dozens of Bible verses "disproving" the score, at the same time ignoring everything Paul wrote insisting upon even more than what the score proves.

SOME SICK NUMBERS

The following is excerpted from an article by Jennifer Harper of *The Washington Times*, from December 23, 2012:

Here's the breakdown of "The Global Religious Landscape," based on an analysis of more than 2,500 censuses, surveys and population registers:

- 2.2 billion Christians (32 percent of the world's population).
- 1.6 billion Muslims (23 percent).
- 1 billion Hindus (15 percent).
- 500 million Buddhists (7 percent).
- 400 million people (6 percent) practicing various folk or traditional religions, including African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, American Indian religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

There are 14 million Jews, and an estimated 58 million people — slightly less than 1 percent of the global population — belong to other religions, including the Baha'i faith, Jainism, Sikhism, Shintoism, Taoism, Tenrikyo, Wicca and Zoroastrianism, “to mention just a few,” the study says.

About half of all Christians in the world are Catholic, 37 percent are part of the Protestant tradition, 12 percent are Orthodox Greek or Russian.

So 32% of the world's population is nominally Christian. To assume that all these people claiming to be Christians are actually believers, is ludicrous. To me, that they have admitted religious affiliation to a pollster belies any claim to true faith. Nevertheless, let's assume that every one of the 32% are of a sound confession. 32% of all people who have ever lived believe in Jesus Christ, the only name under heaven by which humanity is saved.

We are already off on several wrong feet, but no matter. What I'm thinking is that no one born before the time of Jesus Christ can be saved in accord with standard Christian protocols. How could it be possible, seeing as how salvation comes only through belief in Jesus Christ? Billions of people dying prior to 30 A.D. never heard of the Man. None of them ever had the chance to form a decision concerning Him. Anyone considering this dilemma for even a moment will see how the Christian religion creates more problems than it solves.

Let's leap from the abyss of problems into the light of truth.

The truth of Adam and Christ, heralded by Paul, shines problem-free. Were any of the “Adam people” alive when Adam sinned? Not a one. Yet they are all condemned as soon as they are born. Christ is greater than Adam: **“Consequently, then, as it was through one offense for all mankind for condemnation, thus also it is through one just award for all mankind for life's justifying” (Romans 5:18).** No one volunteers to be in Adam. Likewise, no one volunteers to be in Christ. Membership in both Adam and Christ is a matter of time, not chance. Death is the channel to Adam; we are all born dying. Spiritual realization is the channel to Christ; God will unlock the same all's stubbornness at the hour of His choosing (Romans 11:32). Neither death nor a realization of Christ are exercises of human free will.

Adam did his thing and everyone eventually inherits death; likewise, Christ did His thing, and everyone eventually inherits life—1 Corinthians 15:22: **“As in Adam all are dying, thus also in Christ shall all be vivified.”** Ruling and reigning with Christ is different. Membership into Christ's body is different. We are now considering eternal destiny, nothing more.

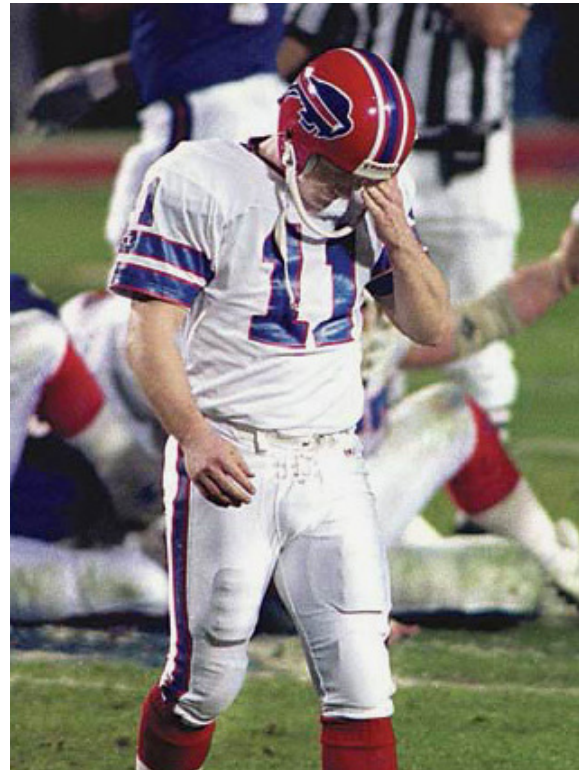
Forget Christian problems for now; they're endless and insoluble. Let's take our random figure for the num-

ber of all humans who have ever lived, multiply it by .32, and see—at best—how many people Jesus rescues from Adam's death-trap:

Adam condemns: 180,654,577,101
Christ saves: 57,809,464,672

Christ loses. It doesn't matter if Christ saves one less than Adam condemns. He still loses.

In Superbowl XXV (1991), the New York Giants scored twenty points. Their opponents, the Buffalo Bills, scored 19 points. The Buffalo Bills scored only one point less than the New York Giants. In football games, however (as well as in “Head of the Race” competitions) the team scoring the most points wins. Because the New York Giants scored one more point than the Buffalo Bills, the New York Giants won the Super Bowl that year. The Buffalo Bills tried their best. They tried so hard that they scored only one less point than the New York Giants. Because of this, people have coined a special term for the Buffalo Bills. That term is: “Loser.”



Next week: How can Christ's sacrifice be “much rather” and “superabound” Adam's sin, when the number of people saved can at best be but equal to the number of people condemned? Stay tuned. —MZ