

# ROMANS Part 49

Chapter 5:15-19



## Greater Than Adam, Part 8

**B**ut 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 superabun-

dance 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.

### CHRIST, THE CHANNEL

**A**s Adam is the channel of doom for the entire human race, "thus also" Christ is the channel of eternal life with God for the entire human race. As the doom of Adam does not visit you, personally, until you are born, so the eternal life of God does not visit you, personally, until Christ decides to give it to you ("each in his own class"—1 Corinthians 15:23). In each case, it's only a matter of time. 1 Corinthians 15:21-26 proves this bold statement, and we'll be going there. People get the life at different times. Still, everyone gets it, because "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" (Romans 5:19).

This is why it is a privilege to be born into the human race. This is the long view, of course. I realize that the short view is traumatic. This is why I don't visit the graves of my parents. It's too much of a "short-view" for me. I'll wait until I see them again with God. The short view is that being born ushers you into the doom of Adam. (Witness the many tombstones in this world.) This is what everyone complains about. But as I have been saying in this series, doom is the God-ordained prerequisite for deliverance from doom; sin is the God-ordained prerequisite for deliverance from sin; death is the God-ordained prerequisite for deliverance from death. Speaking from God's point of view

(don't try this at home, folks), how can You earn the applause of the universe by delivering people from death if there is no death? After You've delivered everyone from death (1 Corinthians 15:23), You can then abolish the occasion of the deliverance, namely, the death (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Everyone's life forever with God is guaranteed. In God's mind, it's a "done deal." It was a done deal when Christ died on the cross. On the cross, Jesus Christ took the whole human race down with Him into death and said, "It is finished." When He arose, He arose for the sake of the whole human race, but without the sin. How could I make this up? I am neither this creative, nor this bold, nor this effective. I could never ask of my son what God asked of His. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15—

For the love of Christ is constraining us, judging this, that, if One died for the sake of all, consequently all died. And He died for the sake of all that those who are living should by no means still be living to themselves, but to the One dying and being roused for their sakes.

He died for the sake of all, but it is we who are now living (who come into a knowledge today of God's special salvation for us) who alone appreciate this fact and try to help others see it. We wish to become "living letters" of this truth. Thus, we no longer live to ourselves, but to the One dying and being roused for our sakes. It is "especially" for our sakes now (1 Timothy 4:10), and for the sake of all later.

### BIRTH PATROL

Every human that is meant to be, will be. No one meant to be born under the curse of Adam can ever remain unborn—as though there could be such a thing as "one" who never becomes a person. Thus, a finite number of human beings shall come onto this Earth. When the last one comes, the books on Adamic humanity saved by Christ are closed. God knows the date of the birth of the last human to be incubated into Adam, and thus glorified in Christ.

Being born assures one of both mortality and eternal life. It's another one of those package deals—mortality and eternal life. Everyone born into this world has won an unfathomably stupendous lottery, including those whose lives are but a brief candle. To become human is, by default, to live forever in happiness with God. When considered in such a fashion, it is hard to feel sorry for



**"Being born assures one of both mortality and eternal life."**

anyone. I wish everyone knew of their guaranteed destiny. I have dedicated my life to giving people this news. The guaranteed destiny comes via the death, entombment and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What about those dying or killed in the womb? They, too, will eventually live forever in happiness with God. Psalm 139:13 says, "You knit me together in my mother's womb." Even a human in a knit, embryonic state is *in*. Such a human is in Adam, and thus it will be in Christ. Not yet, but it will be. Why? Because of behavior? Tell me what good or evil a womb-person has ever done. Very well then; this is the pattern for everyone else. God sees us all as essentially womb-people. We are, all of us, helpless (Romans 5:6). With the womb-people, it's just more obvious.

A heaven based on works is as repulsive to the spiritual realm as evolution is to the scientific. Jesus promised that the meek would inherit the Earth, but we are not talking about Earth here, but about that which sits above it. In the gospel given to Israel through Peter, meek people inherit Earth. In the gospel given to the nations through Paul, unwise, weak, ignoble and stupid people (1 Corinthians

1:26-29) inherit heaven (Ephesians 2:6).

Paul's gospel is for everyone, including those dying in the womb. We are all dying, just not all in the womb (Romans 3:10-18). What's the difference? Nada.

### MISERY LOVES SALT WATER

I don't mean to embarrass you, but could you be one of the people unaware of the gospel of the grace of God brought by Paul, that it is not in accord with works? I hope that you are not one of those people who goes around saying that salvation by grace is, "not in accord with works" (Romans 11:6), and then follows it up with a list (even a short one) of essential works. Are you worried because no one in orthodox Christianity teaches what I am teaching? Are you worried that I don't seem to be a hypocrite? I realize what a shock it is to the human system to hear a consistent message. It throws the machinery of thinking—especially the religious variety—off its cogs. Do you wonder how so many people preaching "works!" and "behave yourselves!" and "turn or burn!" can be so wrong and how I—a man wearing fashionable sunglasses, smoking cigars, and avoiding even the shadow of a church door—can be so right? It is because salvation accords with Christ's death, not with the presence or absence of cigars or sunglasses. God does such amazing things with common clay because this highlights His power and not that of the clay.

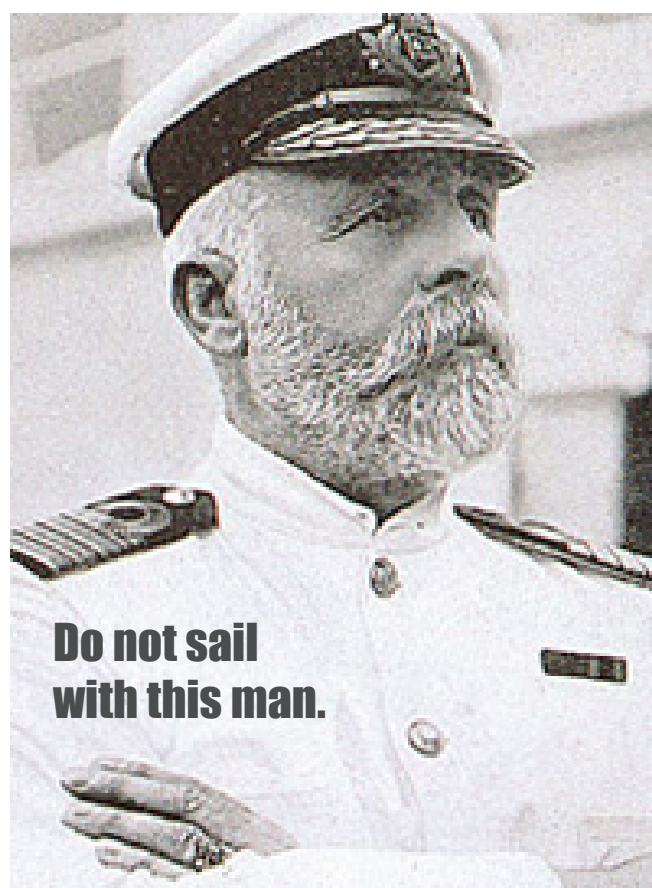
Are you ashamed of the fact that, while the earth turns beneath Satanic jurisdiction, there is yet a man dancing with all his might in the valley of the shadow of death who uses his freedom in Christ to herald the cross and shame its enemies? How can this man not even consider the possibility that he could be wrong? Being a stupid human who cannot possibly attain to the full love and grace of God, the best and worst that this guy can do is *undervalue* the accomplishment of Jesus Christ—and just listen to the guy. To hear him, one would think that Jesus Christ is greater than Adam and that grace out-muscles sin. If this guy can even fathom such a thing, then the real truth must be better. Could this man's conception of God's love possibly outperform the Real Thing?

You want to dance too, but it could be that you're afraid of exposing yourself to the critics who for some reason want to drag you into their sinking ship. Why would anyone want to board a sinking ship? (Misery loves salt water?) I know it doesn't appear to be sinking, but neither did the Titanic five minutes after striking the iceberg. It took about an hour for the dishes to start sliding. You're afraid of freedom, perhaps, because those selling it rather

than announcing it will throw you overboard as soon as you start bucking them. Start bucking fast! This is the best thing that could happen to you—to be put out of this ship—specially when Christ returns to sink it. Some day soon you will be very happy to have either refused or been denied a ride in this doomed sailing vessel.

### THE ANTI-ARK

I will tell you what to be afraid of. Be afraid if you *are* in the same boat with those speaking "grace" out of one side of their mouths, and "eternal torment" out



the other. Like the Pharisees of old, these are known as "hypocrites." They say one thing, but mean another thing. They say "grace," but they mean "not for everybody." They say, "God loves you unconditionally," but they mean that He loves this way only if you love Him. These hypocrites think they're riding "the biggest, best ship in the world," but it's the Titanic. I love the Titanic analogy and use it often because the Titanic was a famous, large, powerful, rich, reputable, freshly-painted vessel that "not even God" could sink. In less than two



hours on a cold April night in 1912, however, the Titanic went from “happy place, happy people, safe haven, moving fast, setting records, making headlines”—to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. *In two hours.* What a striking analogy to Christianity. The destiny of the Titanic is Christianity’s destiny.

Be happy, then, when you’re disqualified for a ticket to board her. Be happy to have not been found worthy



to sail with the Titanic people. Find another boat, quick. Look for a shoddy piece of work such as what the Lord’s disciples worked in; you’re closer to truth. A wooden, humble, creaky thing smelling of old fish guts is what you want. This is where the real action is, and always will be. The mass of humanity is influenced to death by demons disguised as ship captains offering safe passage, orchestral music, smoking chambers, and snacks. Jesus sailed on relative wrecks. So did Paul. It’s not good enough today. Humanity loves giant, newsworthy ships. Even better if they smell of fresh paint. The bigger the better; the fancier the people, the better; the more handsome the captain, the better. Yet everyone aboard this ship will die. This Christianity sailing vessel is the anti-ark. Everyone on it dies, while everyone managing to stay off of it lives. Those inside feel safe because of the girth, the weight and the reputation of the craft, but every last one of them will sink to eonian death for dishonoring God and placing stumbling blocks before lambs who would otherwise believe and live. Matthew 23:13—

Now woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are locking the kingdom of the heavens in front of men. For you are not entering, neither are you letting those entering to enter.

In Paul’s gospel, these kinds of people are stumbling blocks to grace. They don’t realize what dubious, dismal work occupies them, and they won’t until later. Those such as the scribes and Pharisees will eventually emerge from

death, but way down the road. They eventually come up from the muck and mollusks to live because they are just as “in Adam” as everyone else, but they’ve not obtained the “superabundance of grace” spoken of in verse 17 of Romans chapter five. In the meantime, they are vessels of dishonor piloting a vessel of dishonor. God is behind it all, supplying the necessary dark background against which the light and grace of Christ can shine through those given faith (Romans 12:3). Be thankful that you’ve been given faith.

#### THE RAIN IN SPAIN— AND EVERYWHERE ELSE

Some of you are now saying, “Martin, why work yourself into such a froth? Step away from the keyboard. Why speak poorly of those who can’t help but miss the mark? If they’re vessels of dishonor, God made them that way. Shut up. For a man who believes in the ultimate success of Christ to save humanity, you sweat a lot.” Thanks for that. You could at least have handed me a towel. Someone has to herald against the grain of mass condemnation. Someone has to withstand the tide of “Adam wins.” I’m not a fatalist. People do not get this message via osmosis, but by human heralds (Romans 10:14). For it to be heard, it must be announced.

People say, “If there is no eternal torment, why herald?” Let’s try this on for size: Why not, in 1945, say, “Since World War II is over, why publish a newspaper?” See right there the degree of sense this makes. That World War II ended was newsworthy. That Jesus Christ con-

quers death for all, for eternity, is newsworthy. To say, “Why herald?” is to miss the point. Only one who thinks that heralding saves rather than Christ could say this. Her-alding merely acquaints one with what Christ did. It’s the engine on the caboose of salvation. “If people don’t herald, then people go to hell forever.” Since this is the common belief, and since I don’t believe anyone is going to hell forever (and neither does correctly-translated Scripture), then there goes my motivation to herald—or so goes the thinking. How about the motivation of good news? How



**“How about the news that Satan himself shall eventually acclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God?”**

about the thrill of telling people that life trumps death? How about the enjoyment I get from telling people that Jesus Christ condemns and destroys the religion bearing His name? How about the news that Satan himself shall eventually acclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11)?

On the other hand, there are some who, grasping the import of Romans 5:18-19, will string up a hammock and

rest in it until the consummation of the eons, when all are saved. I can’t do that. Woe to me if I fail to herald this message. It is hard to ruffle feathers during an eon of loony-birds, but it is harder—for me—not to. God commissions heralds so that people can hear (Romans 10:15). I could not lay down until the end if I wanted to. I would see others heralding and suffering and would have to jump on that blessed bandwagon. I want the ensuing glory. Someone has put up a website where my name appears on a “blacklist” of heretics who “do not deserve to live.” All because I believe that Christ is greater than Adam. I want God’s glory, and I will not be robbed of the requisite suffering.

Some hold signs saying, “The end is near.” At least they’re standing on their feet. Others hold signs saying, “The end is guaranteed,” except they’re not holding the signs, they’re propping them up against the palm trees where they’ve strung their hammocks. “Let the show go on,” it is said, but not by me. I’m in the show. I believe that “all is of God” (2 Corinthians 5:14). If God does everything, why should I even move? I say, since God does everything, why not jump into the fray? I’m agitated when people don’t get truth. “But Martin! God makes them not get it!” Exactly. And it agitates me. Nothing that happens can happen apart from His intention and control (Ephesians 1:11). This includes me, so off I go.

God’s control includes the weather, which includes rain. Matthew 5:45 says that, “He makes it rain on the just and the unjust.” Since God makes it rain, why bother to engage my windshield wipers? A similar stupid question would be: why would a man strive against God-ordained evil? The answer to both questions is the same: “To get the God-ordained stuff the heck out of my way so I can see.” People wonder why I soldier against the apostasy that God Himself raises and feeds. It’s easy. God raises and feeds the apostasy *so that* I can soldier against it. I am a soldier (2 Timothy 2:3), and a soldier needs a war. God graciously provides the war. He rewards overcomers in Israel, but none can overcome unless there is something to conquer. This should be self-evident, but it’s not. God Himself provides the crap to be conquered. He raised up Pharaoh so that Moses could withstand him, perform memorable miracles, and guarantee Charlton Heston a timeless movie role. He did it to publish His glory (Romans 9:17). This is not unusual for God. He does it all the time. How can He *not* do it if He’s controlling everything? Once you realize that all is of God (2 Corinthians 5:18), then this is the only way it can be: God does everything but acts like He doesn’t





so that we can have enemies to love and heresies to combat. Then He rewards us for the very things He works through us, then saves the vessels of dishonor.

While you may not be a herald of these principles, these principles are good for you to know.

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:19, “For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.” What a nutshell. Study this passage until your eyes water. Thank God for the heresies, then. Now we have something to nobly battle against and shine against. There *must* be heresies, so God provides them. Who else can be trusted to make it crappy enough? He builds the heresies and inspires them, just as He makes vessels of dishonor (Romans 9:21). When the heresies have done their duty of delivering to sinners something to shine against and to “expose, rebuke and entreat” (2 Timothy 4:2), He abolishes the heresies and eventually saves the heretics, none of whom will say to Him then, “Why did you make me thus?” (Romans 9:20).

### SHAME GAME

Don’t be ashamed of this gospel I am heralding. Don’t be ashamed to go to the light. I did not invent the light. Don’t be ashamed to embrace a gospel that has nothing to do with works. It’s not popular now, but someday this gospel, this message, will properly take its place along Christ as the centerpiece of the universe. (In other words, it will be very popular then.) Christ on the cross dying for all sinners in spite of their sin is the centerpiece of the universe, and this gospel tells the tale of it:

You may not be ashamed, then, of the testimony of our Lord, nor yet of me, His prisoner, but suffer evil with the evangel in accord with the power of God, Who saves us and calls us with a holy calling, not in accord with our acts, but in accord with His own purpose and the grace which is given to us in Christ Jesus before times eonian. —2 Timothy 1:8-9

Now that you know that this salvation has nothing to do with works, work like crazy for it if it is your commission to do so. At the least, send this issue of the ZWTF to someone. Pull a friend or relation off the Titanic.

### FIRST CORINTHIANS

The passage best illustrating the truth of Adam and Christ as channels affecting the entire human race, is 1 Corinthians 15:21-26—

**21** For since, in fact, through a man came death, through a Man, also, comes the resurrection of the dead.

**22** For even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, shall all be vivified. **23** Yet each in his own class: the Firstfruit, Christ; thereupon those who are Christ’s in His presence; **24** thereafter the consummation, whenever He may be giving up the kingdom to His God and Father, whenever He should be nullifying all sovereignty and all authority and power. **25** For He must be reigning until He should be placing all His enemies under His feet. **26** The last enemy is being abolished: death.

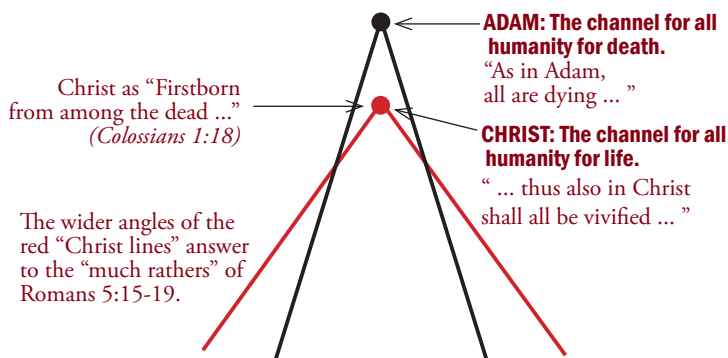
The verse does not say, “As in Adam all are dying, thus also all in Christ shall be vivified.” Did you see the sleight of hand? Look again. Read it slowly. This is what the mainstream church teaches that this verse says. They want to put the “all” in front of “in Christ.” The problem is, that’s not the way it reads in any Greek manuscript. Not many versions have managed to screw this up. It’s not “all in Christ,” but “in Christ, all.” The parallel is “in Adam, all” and “in Christ, all,” treating these two (Adam and Christ) as channels—that is, representatives—for the whole. You know there is something subversive afoot when expositors say, “in Adam, all, and “all in Christ.” It’s a word-ing switcheroo that kills Paul’s point. It makes Adam the channel for involuntary slavery to death, but suggests that we must volunteer for Christ, and that only those who decide to be “in Christ” will be saved. This is not Paul’s point at all. Otherwise, salvation would be of belief rather than of grace. Instead, it is the grace of God which grants belief (Romans 12:3; Philippians 1:29.) Again, the verse doesn’t say, “all in Christ,” but “in Christ, all.” As Adam is

a channel for all, Christ is a channel for all. Adam brings death to all, Christ brings life to all.

In-between “as in Adam, all are dying” and “in Christ shall all be vivified” are the two important words, “thus also.” “Thus also” alerts us to a perfect parallel. Adam is the channel of death for all; thus also, Christ is the channel of life for all. I know I keep saying this, and I will continue to do so. If you mess with the “all” in the second part of the clause and make it different from the all in the first part, you destroy Paul’s testimony and his passion under inspiration. In the process, you destroy one of the most blessed promises of Scripture. Not only this, but you destroy your own peace and happiness in both God and Christ, at the same time becoming an unwitting *dummkopf* who must ignore one set of verses—the reconciliation-of-all verses—in order to believe the death, condemnation, and separation-from-God verses. I don’t want this to happen to you. When you learn what has happened with translations and either seek out a good translation or buy a Young’s or a Strong’s concordance to research the important Greek word *aion* (Strong’s #165), you will no longer have to contradict yourself or ignore parts of the Bible. You will realize that all the verses in the Bible are true, but that the death-condemnation-and-separation verses describe a temporary condition leading to the reconciliation-of-all verses. These ugly things are processes leading to goals. What a happy day this will be for you when you no longer make yourself slaughter half of Scripture to believe the other half.

### THE CHART

I’ve drawn up a chart illustrating how Adam is the channel of death for all, and Christ is the channel of life for the same all. All I am doing is illustrating 1 Corinthians 15:22. I think you will see this immediately, or at least after three months or so of non-stop staring at it and thinking about it. I am not making anything up, but merely attempting to represent graphically the truth penned by an inspired Paul. This may help those presently not seeing it, to see it:



In this illustration, we are looking at Adam as he appears chronologically before Christ. This is how the truth is presented in 1 Corinthians 15:22—first Adam did *this* to all of us, then Christ did *this* for all of us. (Christ in fact existed before Adam, but we’ll be tackling that truth in a moment.) Adam came and took everyone down into death; Christ came later, and takes the same all, eventually, into life.

Since Christ comes so many millennia after Adam, what about all the people born before Christ? Are they doomed for eternity? If that is the case, then Adam himself is doomed, Noah is doomed, Job is doomed, Abraham is doomed, David is doomed—you get the point. The truth is better. All these men qualify for “in Adam all are dying” because, for one thing, they’re all dead. Because they’re dead (“... as in Adam all are dying ...”) they qualify (the “thus also” in 1 Corinthians 15:22 testifies to this) for the “in Christ, shall all be vivified” part. This is still future for them. The work of Christ is retroactive and anticipatory; it encompasses all humanity before and after the cross. The issue is not *when* one was born in Adam, but *that* one was born in Adam. As long as one emerged from Adam, he or she shall be vivified in Christ, “each in his own class” (1 Corinthians 15:23).

In this capacity of succeeding Adam and being the answer to sin, Christ is called, in Colossians 1:18, “Firstborn from among the dead.” In other words, Jesus Christ is the first to emerge from death, forever immune to it. This is the meaning of the word “vivified” in 1 Corinthians 15:22—“given life beyond the reach of death.”

Vivification is to be distinguished from resurrection. These are two different words in the Greek: “Vivify” = *su-zoopoioeo*; “resurrection” = *anastasis*. Vivification touches the spirit, while resurrection touches the body. There is yet a third Scriptural word applied to formerly dead people that touches the soul, and that word is “rousing”—*egeiro* in the Greek. Lazarus and others were roused and resurrected, but never vivified. Had they been vivified, they could never have died again. Lazarus died again. Thus, Lazarus was roused (he regained consciousness), and resurrected (his body came out of the tomb), but his vivification in Christ awaits a future day. Our Lord was roused, raised, *and* vivified. As the first to score the triple play, He can’t die again. This will eventually happen for everyone, which is why Christ is called the *firstborn* from among the dead. “Firstborn” implies a succession of others. Romans 5:15-19 tells us who these “others” are: everyone born into Adam.

The wider angles of the red “Christ lines” (sorry if

you're looking at this in black and white) answer to the "much rather" of Romans 5:15-19. If Paul had said that Christ was "almost as good as Adam," I would have made the angles of the Christ lines narrower, and we couldn't be assured that everyone in Adam would be "covered" in Christ. If Paul had said that Christ was "equal to Adam," then the angles of the Adam lines and Christ lines would be exactly the same, and we would at least be assured that everyone dying in Adam would eventually be vivified by Jesus Christ—but no more than that. But since Paul uses the phrases "much rather" and "superabounds" when comparing Christ's sacrifice to Adam's sin, we know that the gains of Christ's sacrifice exceed the deficits accrued by Adam. This assures us that, not only will all humanity be saved, but when it is saved it will be far better situated than it was even in the so-called pristine Edenic state.

### CHRIST PREDATES ADAM

In Colossians 1:18, as noted above, Christ is called "the Firstborn from among the dead." This speaks of the time of His resurrection after having come to Earth (specifically to Bethlehem in the year 3 B.C.), in the form of an Earthling. This occurred long after Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden. The promise to Eve at that time was that she would hurt the serpent's heel. This is an obtuse and enigmatic way of saying that one of her offspring would defeat Satan. Down the line, finally, God inserted Jesus Christ into our calendar as a rapidly reproducing cluster of cells clung in blood to the uterine walls of a teenage girl. Was this the first time He ever existed? Hell no.

Before that, He was the "Firstborn of every creature" (Colossians 1:15). (What a comedown. Talk about being lowered. Talk about being humbled. See Philippians 2:5-8 for details. He emptied Himself of His celestial glory.)

Let us take a look at the resumé of a Being able to take this title ("Firstborn of Every Creature") without blushing or blinking. From Colossians 1:16-17—

... for in Him is all created, that in the heavens and that on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or lordships, or sovereignties, or authorities, all is created through Him and for Him, and He is before all, and all has its cohesion in Him.

Nothing that exists came into existence apart from Christ (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). As God's Creative Original (Revelation 3:14), God commissioned Christ

to create everything. Clearly, then, He pre-existed Adam. Here is further explanation using different words: Since Jesus Christ made Adam, He existed before him. He did not exist as a cluster of reproducing cells, or as a Jewish Carpenter, or even as the Messiah of Israel, but rather as the most powerful Being in the universe besides God Himself. He was, in fact (and He called Himself this while on Earth): "Son of God" (John 10:36).

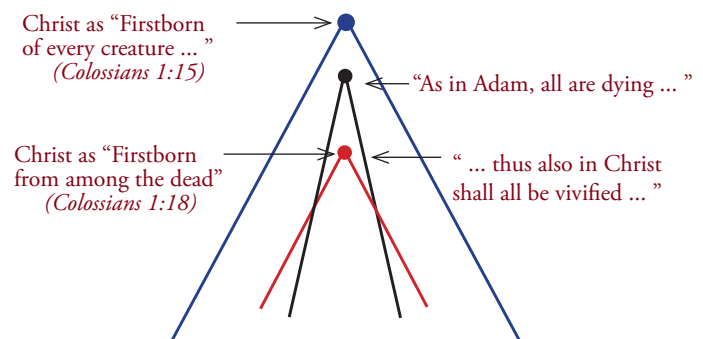
Now we need a new chart. I like the first chart, but its scope is limited. Anyone looking at the first chart would think that Jesus Christ, coming after Adam in time, was God's visceral response to sin and death. This view could forward the wrong thought that Calvary was a contingency plan for an unforeseen emergency. Such a view would put God "on the run" in a vast struggle to stay abreast of His ever-surprising universe. Such a view would have God fumbling through His files for the cure to a crisis.

This is far from the true God. It is so unworthy of Him. *God experiences crises?* Um, no, He doesn't.

As I wrote in an earlier edition, saving grace and love inhered in God from the beginning. He *is* love (1 John 3:8). But how do you show love without a background of hate? Because it is impossible for sentient beings to detect any of God's glorious attributes without the contrastive thing, it behooved God to create the contrastive thing. To contrast good, He created evil (Isaiah 45:7), but does not sin in doing so (God cannot sin), because evil is precisely what He meant to create. This is why we see good and evil in one tree rather than the tree of the knowledge of evil over *here*, and the tree of the knowledge of good over *there*. From evil comes every other vile but necessary thing.

Not only this but, as stated elsewhere, the Lamb was slain "from the disruption [the KJV says 'foundation'] of the world" (Revelation 13:8). Thus, God had Calvary in mind before Eden. He invented Eden to *display* Calvary. He created Adam and arranged for his "fall" as the perfect foil for Christ.

Look at the new chart I've drawn to accord with the above facts:





# contrast

The blue dot and the blue angled lines (sorry again if you're not seeing this in color) show us Christ as the First-born of every creature. This is Christ in His glory. This is when "the Lamb was slain from the disruption of the world." The plan of revealing God's love and exhibiting grace was already in place. This is why I keep saying that the "cure" predated the disease. Maybe better to say that the good things in God existed before the creation of evil, which ensued to display the good. I put "cure" in quotation marks because Calvary isn't really a cure, it's a display of the love of God. John 3:16—

Thus God loves the world, so that He gives His only-begotten Son.

God wanted to give His only-begotten Son the whole time, to show the world His love, but no one could see His love unless His Son loved really terrible people from a really terrible place. "We need a terrible place, and terrible people; otherwise, there is no such thing as grace," God may have then said. It would have made sense for Him to say this. Who wants there to be no such thing as grace? Non-thinking, reactionary people laud grace and then curse evil. Maybe they will stop to think someday and see that one can't exist without the other. This need to demonstrate grace (and love, and life, and happiness, and peace)—this alone necessitated the creation of an Enemy (1 John 3:8; John 8:44), of evil (Isaiah 45:7), and of an Earth (Genesis 1:1; Job 38:4) on which to enact the great drama.

Look at the new chart. See how Adam and the earthly coming of Christ lie nestled beneath the greater truth of "Christ, the Firstborn of every creature." It's almost like the whole thing is a set-up. (It *is* a set-up; I'm being facetious.) It is as though Christ in glory incubates the coming contrast of sin (Adam) and grace (His coming). Christ in glory predates everything. Adam was a creature, so Adam

emerged from the glorified Christ. Only the humiliated Christ succeeds Adam.

Look at the chart again. I like how Adam is sandwiched in-between the Christ in glory, and the Christ in humiliation Who dies for sin. Nothing is amiss, not even Adam. He's perfectly placed. The glorified Christ "sets the table," then comes into the very world He created to "save the day"—which is in fact not a saving of the day, but a demonstration of the day already saved before the disruption of the world.

## IN CLOSING

For the love of God, Jesus Christ is greater than Adam. I've never heard anyone say that He isn't. Not even those who actually believe the opposite have the honesty or nerve to utter what they shamefully believe. Not a single soul I know—not even the hypocritical variety—can even stutter the words: "Adam is greater than Christ." Yet if Jesus Christ does not save everyone dying in Adam, how is He greater?

What a wonderful way to take our eyes off of ourselves. I'm not saying that we don't reap what we sow, but you can see now how human destiny does not depend on individual humans. Such an extremely important thing as eternal life with God does not depend on creatures who blow their noses, brush their teeth, or wipe their asses. Come off the pedestals, then, those

**"Such an extremely important thing as eternal life with God does not depend on creatures who blow their noses."**



of you still on them. Welcome to Reality Check 101. Wake up to your creature-hood. You're really just not that damn consequential.

You really think that God would leave eternal destiny up to weak, dying creatures? When we stop our cerebral gallivanting and quit the notion that everything we do weighs so heavily on the Divine Mind that we can make or break God's day, we come to find through a correct reading of Scripture that the actions of two men are far more important to Him than anything any of us could

do. These two men are: Adam and Christ. It is Adam and Christ, respectively, who act for the whole. It is they, not us, who make or break us. One broke us (Adam), the other makes us (Christ). This is Paul's message.

If God wants fellowship and praise for eternity (and so He does), He would never count on anyone other than His own Son to deliver it. He is not so finger-crossy as to pin His hopes and dreams upon beings with no understanding of Him who actually go out of their way to avoid Him while shedding blood, running from peace, and speaking every manner of bitterness (Romans 3:10-18). For an accurate assessment of yourself, read Romans 3:10-18. It is even more helpful to read it on the toilet. Once you've completed this assignment, tell me whether or not you're thankful that your eternal destiny has been laid in Christ's lap rather than yours.

The truth is not complicated. I have presented you with truth. Try not to stumble at the messenger. I am as flawed as any other messenger of God. The truth is simple and does not depend on me. Complications arise only as we attempt to make the truth fit with what we've always believed. How could all of our religious teachers have misled us? They didn't do it purposely, but the results are the same.

The truth that you are hearing today never will fit the teaching of eternal torment. There is no common ground. It is not a matter of semantics. Your pastor and I are not "sort of saying the same thing." Not even close. Please don't even say that. Your pastor may talk a good game of grace, but can he play it? Or does grace, to him, apply only to those with the ability to make good decisions? Either Jesus Christ is greater than Adam, or some members of the human race will suffer an eternity of torment apart from their Creator—all because they were "too stupid" not to "choose Christ."

You will try in vain to make the square peg of tradition fit into the round hole of truth. As soon as you get tired of trying—that will be the day. As soon as you feel that you're about to lose your mind—that will be the day. As soon as you feel that you cannot survive another day carrying the pains and fears inspired by years of religious education—that will be the day when truth dawns.

I pray that, for you, this is that day. —MZ

*(This is the end of the "Greater Than Adam" Series within the Romans Series. Next week: Romans 5:20-21.)*



## FROM THE MAIL

Dear Mr Zender. I am basically a screw-up of epic proportions. Let's just say i suffer a whole lot in many ways and keep losing everything i love. About 3 months ago before another back surgery i stumbled on your web site. I have been searching for God for years. Well, now i know he was feeding me slow and breaking me down to be my everything.

I am not very smart. i got very discouraged with life and all the pain and all the times i failed in finding God. Religion and torture teaching messed up my head and heart. I was going to kill myself because i figured i was so hopeless that's why God let me suffer. I was about to seriously call it quits. God took everything i love.

At my lowest, God brought me to your teachings.

It was like him saying, now it's time (Gods time) for you to know the whole truth. It was like deep down i already knew what you taught. I freaking lived it. I now read and listen to everything you have. I know God chose me.

I didn't realize i am the type he molds and breaks. I can't imagine how long it took you to study and have God teach you. i am grateful that a jackass like me could find you and in months cram so much teaching in my mind and heart. Since i am not smart, i know God puts it in me and keeps it there.

What you do is more important than any work any man can do. My life is one big painful trial, and i'm thankful for all of it. Don't ever stop what you are doing!!! And i promise as soon as i am doing better i will contribute financially to your work. It take balls to stand up against the world. And Mr. Zender, you have my support for life. Thank you so much. I am beyond grateful for the work you do for our God. God bless you and thank you for giving this broken man the real gospel. Without it, i would have given up. —anonymous