ROMANS 5:12 - 6:2 – ADAM & CHRIST • THE SIN PANDEMIC by Steve Fontenot

Just as Adam’s sin introduced sin and judgment into the world, so Christ’ death introduced righteousness and justification. *In neither case is the first act imputed to others*—Adam’s sin is not considered my sin, nor is Christ righteous life and sacrificial death considered to be my righteous life or death. In both cases, whether one sins and comes into condemnation, or whether one believes in Christ and is freed from sin and made righteous, *depends on the individual and his actions*. If one sins, his own sin and its guilt is imputed to him; if one believes, he is forgiven and righteousness is imputed to him—being free from sin he is counted as righteous. In the case of Adam and sin, death spread to all men *because all sinned*; in the case of Christ and grace, salvation was made available to all men, but only a few will enjoy it, *because only a “remnant” believe and obey* (Rom. 9:27,30-33; 10:1-4).

 Sin was like a pandemic. It “entered the world” and *“spread to all men.”* Not simply because it was in the world, nor because one man had contracted the “disease,” but *“because all sinned”*—*this* is what caused others to be “infected.” Unlike a pandemic, however, *everyone* who contracted the disease “died”—“and *death* through sin, and so death spread to *all* men.” Also, whereas a pandemic may pass away with time, sin did not. By the time of the flood *all in the entire world* had become infected (Gen. 6:5-8). Also, in a pandemic, men may develop a medicine, or surgery, that rids one of the disease—*men cannot do anything of their own* to rid themselves of the guilt of sin. The *only* “remedy” is “the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ” that can provide “justification.” This remedy *without fail* provides “life”—“reign in life.” Whereas this pandemic made people “sinners,” the cure in Jesus Christ triumphed over it and made people “righteous.”

If we have been healed, should we then throw caution to the wind and flirt with this disease? Absolutely not! “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be!” We must never forget, “The wages of sin is death!” (Rom 6:23).

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