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► PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as I come to reflect on your plan of salvation and consider my own sinfulness and your glorious gift of grace whereby my sin has been forgiven and debt has been paid, I lift my hands in awe, wonder, and praise for your goodness and grace. Thank you that Christ's own resurrected life has been breathed into me and I am clothed in his own perfect righteousness. I marvel at your loving kindness to me and all the children of men, and I pray that I may live to your praise and glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Source: prayer.knowing-jesus.com



If money was no object, what is one thing you would do to change the world?





¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 5:12-21

There are two men who are compared and contrasted here: Adam and Christ. Note their acts: Adam's act of disobedience when he ate the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:6); Christ's act of obedience when he died on the cross (Phil.2:8). See verses 18-19.

Notice the awesome consequences in <u>Romans 5:17-19</u>. Take note of the two results: because of what Adam did, we see death, judgment, and condemnation. Because of what Christ did, we experience life, righteousness, and grace.

Note that Adam and Christ were representative men. They acted on man's behalf. Adam sinned for us, while Christ died for us.

It is very important to see our history in Adam and to see our history in Christ. It is important to recognise when Adam sinned in the garden of Eden, because that was also you!

In Adam, you have sinned and you died. Likewise, it is vital to see that when Christ died on the cross, that was also for you!

The main point is the victory of God's grace over sin (see Rom. 5:20-21). The key phrase we see repeated here is "much more" (vs 15,17,20).

If you think what Adam did was significant (and it was), how much more significant and important is what Christ did. What Christ did far outweighs what Adam did!

■ GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

- 1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = extreme), how would you rate your obedience to authority when you are told to do something? Why have you rated yourself this way?
- 2. In comparing Adam and Christ, we see the comparison of how one's decisions towards disobedience brought death, while the other one's decisions towards obedience brought life. How do *you* make decisions? Does God play a role in how you make decisions? If so, how?
- 3. Can you think of a decision you made that may have helped determine the direction of your life, and/or the life of your family? Tell us about that decision and how it routed yours and your loved ones' direction.
- 4. Are you in right standing with God? Why or why not? Do you want to be? What may be hindering you?
- 5. Would you like to trust God with your life, receive his grace, follow him, and enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer with them:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.