

**QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION
& SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
FOR FEBRUARY 26 THRU MARCH 4, 2023**

—Here are some quotations that are intended to provoke some initial discussion about what's being presented in this study.

—“The gospel is so rich, so immense, simply because it is a reflection of God. Paul’s desire to ‘preach the gospel’ is not simply a desire to repeat the same truths concerning salvation, but a passionate desire to expose the Romans to the riches of the gospel, and thus to the glory of God, in all of its vast dimensions: its height and depth; its length and width. In the Book of Romans Paul takes those themes he has introduced at the beginning of his epistle, and returns to them, filling in more and more detail, and exposing the reader to the wealth which is in Christ. It is an inexhaustible wealth, something that enriches and encourages our faith.” —**Bob Deffinbaugh**

—“I believe in the security of the believer and I also believe in the insecurity of the make-believer. —**J. Vernon McGee**

—“God does not overlook sin—but men and women’s pasts are still unalterably marred by it. We can do nothing to change our character and justify ourselves before God, and we are helpless in the face of God’s standard of perfection. God receives us only on the grounds of the sacrifice of Jesus, which is our only hope of salvation, and as a result of our faith in Him.” —**Alistair Begg**

—“Christ undid all the damage caused by Adam’s sin. When we place our trust in His sacrifice as our Substitute, God declares us to be righteous, not guilty, absolutely acceptable to Him!” —**GAD**

—“A real, genuine Christian has no reason to talk about being afraid of losing his salvation. When Jesus Christ went to the cross, He took upon Himself the debt of our sin, and He paid for it! If Christ had not paid the debt of sin in full, He would still be dead. The only reason He was raised from the dead was because He paid it!” —**Alva J. McClain**

—“Our union with Adam made us sinners. Our union with Christ enables us to be righteous in God’s eyes!” —**Warren Wiersbe**

—So also it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living soul.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. —**1 Corinthians 15:45**

—**Romans 5:12–21**

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—**13** for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. **14** Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. **16** The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. **17** For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. **18** So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. **19** For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

—Please carefully observe **Romans 5:12–21** and list the main ideas and key words you notice in the passage.

—**Romans 5:12–14** (Emphasizing the biblical connection between Adam & Jesus Christ)

—**Romans 5:15–19** (Expressing the distinctions/differences between Adam & Jesus Christ)

—**Romans 5:20–21** (Explaining the affect the giving of the Law had on sin & grace)

—*After carefully observing Romans 5:12–21, what are some personal thoughts that come to your mind about:*

—*How much impact does Adam’s transgression have on us today?*

—*What kind of damage does sin cause when we fail to deal properly with it through confession and apologies to those who might be affected?*

—*If you had been in Adam’s place, would you have resisted the temptation to disobey God’s command?*

—*In Romans 5:1–21, there is a strong emphasis on the contrast between what Adam did to cause a curse to be placed on people and what Christ did to provide a cure for that curse. Why is it beneficial for us to know how sin came into the world? How does this influence the depth of your faith in Christ?*

—*Do you believe that it’s important (or even essential) for a person to experience a deep conviction over sin before coming to faith in Christ? Explain your perspective on this.*

—*How does self-righteousness influence a person’s understanding of what Christ accomplished for us? How does it hinder one’s faith?*

The LIFE LESSONS given with this study might provide some interesting discussion. Each one begins with a question that you might want to discuss during your Growth Group or with someone else.

—1} Do I **MINIMIZE** the impact & influence of sin?

God takes sin seriously, but most people are tempted to rationalize and justify their sinful actions.

Sin rules and reigns over our lives. It controls us and there are always consequences resulting from our sin.

Our conduct and choices we make impact and influence others. Our sins don’t affect the entire human race (like Adam’s) but sin is contagious. A thriving relationship with Christ as our Lord & Savior is the only cure for this contagious threat.

Since sin existed before God’s Law was established, sin is more than a mere transgression of the law. Sin is lawlessness and it rules over our lives until we submit to the Lord’s authority!

—2} Where do I find my **TRUE IDENTITY**?

Everyone either identifies with Adam or with Christ. Our society places an extraordinary emphasis on identity, but it fails to recognize that there are only two choices!

Every person begins with an identity found in Adam. We are all victims of Adam’s sin, but in reality, we also are all guilty of personal sin.

—3} Where do I find **HOPE, ASSURANCE, PEACE, & SECURITY**?

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ provides and promises us the forgiveness of our sins (past, present, & future)! It absolutely assures us of a personal relationship with God that will last throughout all eternity! But we must understand that since we’ve been rescued from the reign of sin by acknowledging our sin and depending in what Christ did when he died in our place. All our hope, assurance, peace, and security are part of the gift He has given us!