

## Adam & Jesus – Thanksgiving and the Righteousness of God

### I. Gospel — Power to Save [slide 1]

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for **it** is the power of God for salvation **to** everyone who believes, to the **Jew** first and also to the **Greek**. 17 For in it the **righteousness of God** is revealed from faith **for** faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

### II. Adam Falls & Jesus Saves

(1:18-3:20 A detour to show the need for Christ’s intervention)

#### A. Suppressing Truth —> Denying Reality (Rom 1:18-20)

Rom. 1:18 For the **wrath of God\*** is revealed from heaven **against all ungodliness and unrighteousness** of men,

who **by** their unrighteousness **suppress the truth.‡**

\* **not** an emotion, but God’s attitude toward sin. Allows a process of cause and effect in a moral universe. Sin is the cause, disaster is the effect.

‡ **resisting reality**

#### B. Loss of Adoration & Communion (Rom 1:21-22)

21 For although they knew God, they **did not honor** him as God or **give thanks** to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools. [slide 2]

#### Consequences of :

1. Rational Futility, Confusion
2. Dark longings — disordered desires
3. Self-deception, False identity

## C. Restoration in Jesus

Rom. 3:21 But now the **righteousness of God** has been *manifested apart from the law*, ...<sup>22</sup> **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ**.... <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the **glory of God**, <sup>24</sup> and are **justified** by **his grace** as a gift, through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus. [slide 3]

**JUSTIFIED through *faith in Jesus!***

## III. Applying Abraham (Rom 4:23-24)

Rom 4:23 But the words “***it was counted to him***” were **not** written **for his sake alone**, <sup>24</sup> but **for ours also**. It will be **counted to us** who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord. —>

## IV. Gift, Honor and Reward

### A. Redemption's Riches (Rom 5:1-12)

1. PEACE with God

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Once we were enemies (v 10), now we have peace. God is our Father, not our Judge.

2. ACCESS

Rom5:2a Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand...

One we stood condemned in Adam, now we have perfect standing in Christ's Grace.

4. HOPE in all circumstances

Rom5:2b and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

5:3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

Looking forward to the glory of God. Confidence in daily struggles —> It's taking us somewhere

5. Experience ENDLESS LOVE OF God.

5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

## 6. RECONCILIATION – Friendship Restored

5:10 For if while we were enemies we were **reconciled to God** by the **death of his Son, much more**, now that we are **reconciled**, shall we be **saved by his life**. **10 More than that**, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have **now** received **reconciliation**.

## B. NO THANKS & the Reign of Death

### 1. Sin Enters Through a Meal

**Rom 5:12** 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—

At creation man is presented as a **hungry** being, and the **whole world** as his **food**. ...

**Gen 1:29**“Behold, I have given you **every** plant yielding seed ..., and **every** tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for **food**.”

Adam must eat in order to live; He must **take** the world into his body and **transform** it into flesh and blood.

The whole world is presented as a **banquet table** for man.

The image of the **feast** remains, throughout the whole Bible, the central image of life.

It is the image of **life** at **creation** and also at its fulfillment: The feasts of Israel. The Wedding at Cana, The feeding of the 5000, The Last Supper of Christ. The Road to Emmaus. Behind closed doors... Lk 24:41-43 “And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “**Have you anything here to eat?**” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.”

**Marriage supper of the Lamb.**

Hunger for God (fullness of existence, knowing and being known, joy, pleasure) is **hard-wired into human nature**.

**Behind all the hunger of our life is God.** All desire is finally a desire for him.

**Mt 5:3** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...

The unique role of man in the universe is that **he alone is to bless God for the food and the life he receives. He alone is to respond to God's blessing with his blessing.**

God blessed the world, man, and time. He filled all that exists with his love and goodness, making it very good.

The human response is to **bless God in return**, to thank Him. To stand **as a priest** in the midst of the universe, unifying it through the act of blessing it... receiving this world from God and offering it to him in worship, transforming himself and the whole world into **eucharist ...** communion with God.

## 2. Abdicated Priesthood and the Reign of Sin

**Rom 5:14** Yet **death reigned** from Adam to Moses, ...

Adam ate the forbidden fruit. The fruit of that tree, unlike every other fruit in the Garden, was **not offered as a gift** to man. Not given, not blessed by God, it was food whose eating was **communion with itself alone**, and not with God. It is the world loved for itself, and eating it is the image of life understood as an end in itself.

He ceased to be the **priest** of the world and became its **slave**.

Adam chose only the appearance of life. He chose to **eat** in a way that would return him to the ground from which both he and the bread had been taken:

**Gen 3:19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat **bread**, **till you return to the ground**, for out of it you were taken; for you are **dust**, and to dust you shall return."

Adam **lost** the endless life, and the power to transform the world into Life.

He ceased to be the priest of the world and became its slave.

When Adam left the Garden, he led the world into darkness.

Yet the Light was always shining.

[Jn 1:4](#) In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

### 3. Restoration Through THE GIFT

[Rom 5:15](#) 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.

The gift of His OFFERING, his suffering and crucifixion.

[Jn 6:51](#) This is the **bread** that comes down from heaven, so that one may **eat** of it and **not die**. **I am the living bread** that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will **live forever**. And the **bread** that I will give **for the life of the world** is my flesh.

The priest and the offering. The giver and the gift.

### 4. MUCH MORE...Reign of Grace in Life

[Rom 5:17](#) 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**.

[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.

**APPLICATION:** Reign in life through the FREE GIFT, transform the world by:

Eph 5:15 **Look** carefully then **how you walk, not as unwise** but as **wise**,

16 **making the best use of the time**, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore **do not be foolish**, but **understand** what **the will of the Lord** is.

18 And **do not get drunk** with wine, for that is debauchery, but **be filled with the Spirit**,

19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,

20 **giving thanks always** and **for everything** to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

**YOUR THANKFULNESS CHANGES THE WORLD! LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS!**