

October 15, 2017 “Stagnate Heart will be changed”

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Romans 5:12-21

¹²Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—
¹³To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law.¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.²⁰ The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As you know Genesis is the first book written in the Bible, and the Genesis is mentioning about the beginning of the universe, the beginning of human being, the beginning of pain and sadness, beginning of wife and husband, and the beginning of family. Some people called the Genesis is just an ancient book, but the Genesis gives us the direction of our life more than any other books.

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Today's Bible verses, Romans 5:12 said; "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men". The Romans mentions about "one man" here and we know the one man is Adam who was created by God as a first man on the earth, and from him, sin entered into our world and death came to all man.

By the way, according to the Bible, the first human was an Adam and his wife, Eve. After all we are all descendent of this couple. Therefore, when we go back to the ancestor, we all reach this couple, Adam and Eve. We can distinguish between Japanese and American or Korean or whatever, but we are all relatives. We say sometime "we are all brother and sister", and this is not wrong.

To return to the subject, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men". Namely, the sin entered the world through first man, Adam. The word "enter" is not the meaning of return, but the meaning is actually something it is not belong to us get into us and capture us, control us.

Therefore, we, the people who lives after Adam have been controlled by the sin and reigned by that sins, and according to the verse 17 and 21, by this sins we are all controlled by death.

What is this meaning? I would like to explain some point from the book of Genesis. God told Adam, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17), but his wife Eve was tempted by serpent who is Satan. The Satan told her "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."(Genesis 3:4) They followed this temptation and they concluded their life with death just like God said to Adam.

After Genesis 3, all their descendent had been ruled by these sins and death and we are also following that pattern.

When I was a child, I swim in the river near my house, and enjoyed to catch fishes. That was more than 40 years ago, so the stream of river was still

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clear. But one day, when I went to the river to play, the river was get muddy. I found a lot of mud flowed from upper land because there was construction up there. I gave up to play at the river, and went back to home on that day. I also saw a lot of fishes came up to the surface to breath some air, and some of them showed their belly and floating. Yes, they are dying. The scene is just like our world and the source is Adam. Sometimes we are not bearable to live this life and fall into trouble to breath spiritually, and as the Bible is saying, our end is death.

This sinful flow is pretty strong, and the main stream create many branch and get into anyplace in our daily life. The flows go through our telephone line and internet cable line. The flows stream to the Diet Building, hospital, school and office, and flow into our home.

What can we do in these sinful stream? Do we need disposable spiritual oxygen tank? De we need divine thick wet suit to protect from the sins? Or do we live in the stream submissively? Just be there with patient or take a so-what attitude and seek pleasure?

Paul said "no" at here. Paul called Adam as "one man" and the man became source of our sinful nature, but he also mentioned about "other man", and the other man is Jesus Christ.

Like he mentioned in verses 17-19; 17For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. 18Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. 19For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

We are reigned by Adam's sin, but now the grace and righteousness of Jesus Christ is more strongly reigned us. We are determined as sinner by Adam's sin, but by the righteousness deeds of Jesus Christ, his righteousness reached every person. The disobedience of Adam made all

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people sinners but by the obedience of Jesus Christ made many people righteous.

According to Genesis 2:7, "the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Of course this was Adam. This verse proved that we are all return to soil at the end of our life. But 1 Corinthians 15:47 said "The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven". The second man is Jesus Christ.

Adam was tempted at the garden filled with beauty and love, and he failed. Jesus was tempted at wilderness and also he was tempted at the Calvary surrounded by hatred and ugliness, and he overcame.

Adam against God, and he was banished from the garden. That is, we say, "Paradise Lost". What did Jesus say to the man next him when he was crucified on the cross? He said "You will be in Paradise with me today".

We cannot change that we are the descendant of Adam, but we have a choice to remain his descendant or not. We cannot do anything our blood from Adam, therefore Jesus said in the conversation of Nicodemus and Jewish leader in John 3:3, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again".

Originally, we are living in the stream of sins from Adam, but we can also place ourselves in the stream of life in Jesus Christ, and we can have born again.

Prophet Ezekiel who lived about 600 years before Christ wrote about the stream of river from Jesus Christ in Ezekiel 47:7-9; When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Sea. When it empties into the Sea, the water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live.

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We just read the name of place, Arabah, the place is the region where there is a Dead Sea. The dead sea rejects any creature because the sea is full of salt. But when the river come into the sea, the water become fresh, and according to the original word, Hebrew, the fresh is the meaning of healing.

This is a prophet Ezekiel's prophecy of Jesus Christ. Ezekiel used a metaphor the river as Jesus Christ. English Bible did not mention clearly about this, but Japanese Bible said, "when the river come into the stagnant sea, the sea would be clean". It is funny for scientist because it is impossible the river cleans up the stagnant ocean.

We understand the water of stagnant river will be clean when it reaches the clear ocean", because the ocean is much larger than river. Even cleanest river come into the stagnant ocean, nothing affects the ocean because the ocean is so huge. But the river from Jesus Christ cleans the stagnant ocean that was made by countless sinful streams. The stagnant ocean will be healed.

These are written in verse 17 "For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ"

And also verse 20 said, the law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,

Even if the stream is contaminated by sins, God's abundant provision of grace will much more reign us. His grace increased all the more.

Jesus' disciple, John wrote the word of Jesus in John 7:37-38; On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

John mention very interesting word, that is "Jesus stood and said in a loud voice". Have you stood and shout recently? (maybe while you are watching Padres game). It is not happened in our life so often. If we will do that, that is the time of very important moment.

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For Jesus the words were critical and emergent. Then What did he say? He shouted "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Jesus must have stared people on the street. For his eyes, these people are throwing into sinful stream. For his eyes, there are many who cannot drink the muddy water and get thirst. Therefore, he shouted, come to me, and drink from me. Streams of living water will flow from within him.

Brothers and sisters, our sinful stream is strong, very strong. Probably the stream is much stronger more than we think. We cannot do anything with this stream by ourselves. All our problems come from there. Why do we have hatred among us all the time? Why do we experience betrayal? And why every people have to go through the death. Because we are in this muddy stream.

But Jesus can change the stream. Even though, the stream is extremely contaminated, the living water flowing from him will cleanse the sinful water thoroughly.

Let's pray. Our savior Jesus, we thank that you became the new stream of life and get into our sinful place and quench our thirst and make us live. As you said in loud voice "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink" may let us go to you and receive your water from you.

Translated by Makoto Okura