

Small group optional guide: “What Adam Wrecked, Jesus Restored” — Romans 5:12–21

UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through the word & worship

WORD: Romans 5:12–21 answers one of the most important questions a follower of Jesus can ask: **How can the sacrifice of one man—Jesus—deal with all the sin, brokenness, and death in the world, including mine?** Paul responds by setting before us a powerful contrast between two men: Adam and Christ, two representatives whose actions shape the destiny of all humanity.

Paul explains this using the theological concept of **imputation, meaning “placing something in another’s account.”** It’s accounting language—you didn’t earn it or produce it, yet it is assigned to you. Just as an unexpected inheritance can be transferred into your bank account, so spiritual realities can be assigned to your life.

Paul begins with Adam, the first representative of humanity. When Adam disobeyed God, his sin was imputed to all who came after him. Humanity didn’t begin morally neutral; we inherited a fallen nature. Paul shows that sin is not merely the wrong things we do—actual sin—but a condition we are born into—original sin. We sin because we are sinners by nature, just like a lion hunts not because it chooses a violent hobby but because it is in its nature. Adam’s trespass brought guilt, corruption, and death into the world, and this inheritance belongs to all of us.

But Paul doesn’t leave us in despair. If Adam is a type—a shadow—Christ is the fullness. Where Adam brought condemnation, Christ brings justification. Where Adam’s act spread death, Christ’s act brings life. What Adam wrecked, Jesus not only repairs but transforms. Through His obedience, culminating in the cross, Jesus offers a new inheritance: His righteousness imputed to us by grace. Unlike Adam’s guilt, which is automatically ours by birth, Christ’s righteousness must be received—a free gift accepted by faith.

Paul highlights the overflowing nature of this grace: “Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.” Christ’s work is not fine-tuning or spiritual duct tape; it is nothing less than a new creation. In Christ, we receive a new nature, a new heart, a new family, and a new destiny.

This leads to three life-changing implications for every believer:

- **You can truly live.** Justification brings real, spiritual life. In Christ we are freed from fear, anxiety, and despair. His life empowers us to walk in hope, gentleness, self-control, and peace.
- **You can resist sin.** Because righteousness has been imputed to us, we are no longer slaves to our old nature. We can say, “That is not who I am anymore.” ...

(continued)...We have a new identity, new power, and a new Spirit within us. Though imperfect, we are truly free.

- **You will live forever.** Grace now reigns where sin once dominated. Eternal life is not only future—it begins now, with the assurance that Christ will finish what He started.

Paul wants you to leave with absolute, unshakeable confidence: Yes, one man’s sacrifice is enough—because that man is Jesus, the Second Adam. In Him, grace reigns, humanity is restored, and eternal life is offered to all who believe.

Application Questions

1. **Which part of Adam’s imputation do you personally find hardest to accept—that you were born with a sinful nature, or that you are accountable for it?** Why might our pride, sense of fairness, or desire for autonomy make this doctrine difficult to receive?
2. **When you think about Christ’s righteousness being freely given to you, what part of your heart struggles to believe it’s truly enough?** Do you feel you must “add something,” prove yourself, or fix yourself before receiving grace?
3. **In what areas of life do you live as though the “old Adam nature” still defines you, even though Scripture says you are a new creation?** What fears, habits, or lies keep you from embracing your new identity and power in Christ?.

Worship songs from Sunday:

Exalted over all / Behold, the lamb of God / Worthy / Holy Forever

IN; we connect and learn to love one another

Before we move into the new advent preaching series, break into smaller groups and pray the truth of this passage into and over one another, especially pray for any areas we struggle with that we unpacked a little in the application questions

OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them

1) The Christmas in a box 2025 edit is ready to use! This is a 30 minute, video led carol service that we want to take into care homes in East Grinstead and the villages.

We have 5 memory sticks with the video pre loaded, we have the readings and running order printed, all we need is for small groups to say YES we will contact a care home and deliver the gospel message this Christmas. Please get your small group leaders to check with the Cluster leaders which care homes are being visited this Christmas so we don’t double up!

2) **Who will you invite non-Christians to our carol service? (info on the next page)**

Jubilee Christmas Carols is always one of the highlights of the year, and not to be missed! Invite your friends to join us for what is sure to be a special time for all. You can expect a modern take on old carols, with opportunity to sing, reflect and enjoy a night of Christmas cheer. Last year we were extremely busy, so to secure your place, please sign up now through our website calendar, featured events. This is a great opportunity to invite non-Christians to hear the gospel!

Saturday, 20th December 6:00pm - 7:15pm



Christmas at
Jubilee Community Church

BEHOLD

good news of great joy