

Romans 5b

12 Man was created without sin but chose to disobey God. It was this choice that brought rebellion into the world and with it the death sentence of justice. Entropy is the rule. I think of evil as an absence of good, not as a thing in itself. Where there is no light there is darkness. Darkness isn't a thing, it is the absence of light. No one created sin because it is not a thing in itself. Sin/evil is a choice to turn from light or good. When Adam chose to turn from obedience to God, disobedience entered the world of God's creation. Since all who inherited Adam's disobedient nature choose to follow the example of Adam and turn from light, all deserve the just sentence of death, physical and spiritual death. Eating the tree of Life was then forbidden because of the fallen state of man that demands justice be meted out first. Genesis 2:17,3:6; James 1:15

13 Adam and his descendents sinned before the Law was given through Moses. I read this to say that sin is not held against you when there is no revelation of truth available to you. "not taken into account" literally means not written down. And still, they died. Why? because we have inherited a sinful nature. If you don't think that is fair, take a close look at your own rebellious nature and consider what a holy and just God should do with you? Be careful when you ask God for what is fair. His grace and mercy wants to bring forgiveness, but He is just. Holy love is inseparable from holy wrath. To love good is to hate evil. This verse reminds me of the mention of those without the law whose consciences excuse or defend them. And what about the preachers of righteousness like Enoch, Noah, Melchizedek? Didn't they preach to cease from sin and turn to God? I think the point here is not dispensationalism, but that regardless of where we are and what we have heard to be held accountable for, we still have a sinful nature. 4:15; Genesis 4:7, 6:5

14 Man died even without the Law. It is justice and mercy on these fallen bodies. Hebrews 9:27 Adam broke a direct command of God. Many of those who died did not talk directly with God or have the Law. Still they had sinful natures and died. Adam was the father (one who brought life) of the physical race of humans. Jesus the father (one who brought life) of the spiritually redeemed. Paul sees the Old Testament as types and shadows of the fullness that came in *Christ*.

15 The trespass of Adam brings spiritual death to mankind but the grace and the gift of Jesus brings spiritual life. One is inherited by being human, the other is a free choice of the pattern of what the tree of life offered. Still, this body of fallen nature must perish or be transformed so that we can put on our heavenly bodies. 6:23; 1John 2:2, 4:9-10

16 Judgment fell on mankind by one sin. But the gift followed all the sins of man that were laid on Christ at his sacrificial death on the cross, making us justified. "Just as if I'd" never sinned. One sin to the many death; one sacrificial life of obedience to the many life. Isaiah 1:18, 44:22

17 Just as death reigned, now through Christ life much more reigns. Why do we say much more? It is because we are convinced that God delights in showing mercy and grace over justice and judgement. Is grace and righteousness reigning in your life? It can and should if you have received Christ. If it is not we need to examine our allegiance and priorities that stem from our relationship to Him, our choices and life style, and ask ourselves if Christ is reigning in our heart. If the answer is no, it is a call to repentance and allowing his Lordship to reign on the throne of your heart, every area of your heart. John 10:10

18 Adam did one rebellious act and all died. Christ did one act of righteousness so that all can live. 1Corinthians 15:21-22

19 How is this different from 18. 18 says our standing with God, 19 says what our nature is. This verse says we should be New Creatures in Christ - once a sinner - now made righteous, a saint. The life of Christ applies to our standing with God down into the very nature of who we are. It is interesting to note that the Greek for disobedience (parakoe) means imperfect hearing or an unwillingness to hear, obedience (hupokoe) means to hear under or to hear an authority. 1 Timothy 2:4-6

20 Why did we ever need the Law? It came so that we would see how desperately wicked man is and how much we needed a Savior. You can see the reason for Jesus' intolerance for the Pharisees who twisted the Law and pretended that they kept it in full, the opposite of the reason the Law came. Remember the praying sinner and Pharisee? We actually became more guilty because the Law points our clearly God's command and we still disobey. In this exceeding sinfulness, the grace of God met us in overflowing abundance. 2Corinthians 3:7-9; Galatians 3:24

21 Sin once reigned (established its throne - basileuo) in death, spiritual and physical. Now grace reigns (established its throne - basileuo) through righteousness bringing eternal life - the opposite- now and forever - through Jesus the Messiah our Master who made it possible by receiving the justice we deserved. Eternal life is more than immortality! It is a new nature, the reign of Life in me today. Romans 6:16