



The Heart of the Matter

Perhaps the apostle Peter had Romans 5:12-21 in mind when he wrote regarding Paul's letters that "some things [are] hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:16). But the complications that surround these verses are minimized if we keep two thoughts in mind. First, Paul was concluding this initial major section of the letter by summing up the first five chapters. That explains why he mentioned condemnation in Adam (Romans 1-3) and justification in Christ (Romans 3-5). Second, the main idea in 5:12-21 is restated in 5:16. Paul's overarching point is clear: the grace brought to us by justification through Christ is far superior to the guilt brought to us by condemnation through Adam.



Discovering the Way

1. Adam: Cause of Guilt (Romans 5:12-14)

Adam's act of disobedience in the garden of Eden brought sin and death into the world. From him, it spread to all humanity, leaving us all scarred by guilt.

2. Adam and Christ (Romans 5:15-19)

Paul both contrasted and compared these two pivotal figures in history.

3. Christ: Source of Grace (Romans 5:20-21)

Because of Christ's unblemished sacrifice, grace abounded and reigned throughout the world.

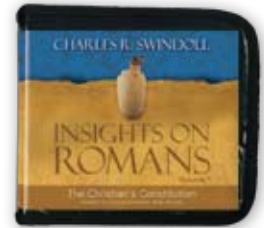


Starting Your Journey

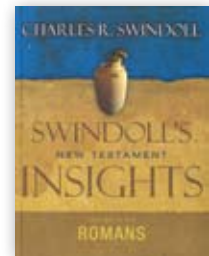
As we come to understand our fallen position in the world, we must remember two things. First, there is no way to overcome the devastation of the fall of Adam except through Christ. And second, there is no way to handle the damage of the fall except through grace.



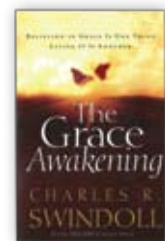
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