

God Judges: The Fall  
God Promises: Covenant  
God Incarnates: Jesus  
God Saves: Salvation

**This Week's Big Question: What went wrong?**

***Romans 5:12 says***

***Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin,  
in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned.***

When I was in my early 20s, I lived in a share house with my good friend Dave. Dave was a highly intelligent guy, but he didn't always make the best choices. One time, we had some mouldy bread in the cupboard. The first few slices were green and furry with mould, but the last few slices looked okay. Instead of throwing the whole loaf out and getting a new one, Dave just threw out the green, furry slices and made a sandwich with the rest. As you might have guessed, it did not go well for Dave. A visit to the hospital and two weeks in bed taught him a valuable lesson: it's not just one slice that's the problem; it's the whole loaf. And that is at the heart of our question today.

Brothers and sisters, we live in a world gripped by evil and suffering. Every night on the news, we are reminded of war, poverty, people hurting other people, and causing suffering. We are tempted to think that evil and suffering are caused by a few bad people. But just as Dave learned, it's not just one slice that's the problem; it's the whole loaf. Yes, it's the people out there, but it's also me and you. So, what went wrong?

Romans 5:12 gives us the most concise answer to that question. It's a sobering reality based on two profound truths. First, the spread of sin. When we look at people, we like to think the best of them. We often think you are so awesome, the only thing you are missing in your life is Jesus...but that's a distorted picture. In the Garden of Eden, Adam's disobedience introduced sin into the world. This act was not just a personal failing but one that had cosmic consequences. Since Adam was the father of humanity, all of humanity was in Adam when he sinned. Sin spread throughout this world because it attached itself to humanity, changing the goodness of God's creation. Everyone born into the human race is born into sin. The problem is not just one slice of bread: it's the whole loaf. Yes, it's the people out there, but it's also me and you.

Second, the solution to sin. If I'm honest, sometimes I think like my mate Dave—that if we just change the mouldy slices, everything else will be fine. If we can change those who do evil, if we increase education, if our politicians make wiser choices, then we can progress as a society and the human race will move forward. Now, all those changes are good, but they are only addressing the symptoms and not the root cause of the problem: our sinful hearts. If the evil of this world is a spiritual problem, then it needs a spiritual solution. We need more than education, and political change...we need a change of heart. And the beauty of Romans 5, is that God has given it to us in his Son Jesus. Just as sin came through one man, Adam, the gift of grace and righteousness comes through one man, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus' obedience and sacrificial death, the power of sin and death is broken, offering us reconciliation and eternal life.

Romans 5:12 gives us two profound truths, through Adam, sin spread to all humanity, and God has made the solution available to all people through Jesus. And in this beautiful way, God doesn't throw out the loaf and start again...he transforms us by the Holy Spirit so we may live lives that honour and glorify him.

### **THREE QUESTIONS**

Sometimes we love our friends so much we think they are 'good enough for God'. How does Romans 5 help us see things clearer?

How would you explain sin to a ten-year-old?

What are some ways that people try to fix the sin problem on their own, and why is Jesus better?

### **RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK**

Write a repentance prayer with your household, and say it every night before dinner this week.

Everything A Child Should Know About God: Part 5

The-Ology: Chapters 12-19

PTC Course: Ethics

## **LIVING AND ACTIVE PRAYER**

Gracious Father,

You have saved us with a wonderful and powerful salvation.

Your Word is living and active. Today, we have heard you speak,

So help us to not harden our hearts but to live it out.

Forgive our failures, renew our wills, awaken our joy, and transform our lives.

Make our faith living and active.

In the name of your Son and by your Spirit, Amen

### **Tuesday: Ephesians 2:1-4**

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does the spiritual death of sin impact people's lives and the world today?

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### **Wednesday: Romans 1:24-25**

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

What is the heart of sin, and why should God be praised for his judgement (v25)?

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### **Thursday: Romans 2:5-6**

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does the judgement of God reflect his justice, and give us hope?

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### **Friday: John 5:21-25**

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

Why has God the Father given the role of judgement to God the Son? How does this cause us to honour God more?