

*Mount Zion, July, 2014*  
*Good Shepherd, March, 2020*  
*Romans 5:12. 18-21*

Why do bad things happen in life? Why do some people suffer health problems? Why do tornadoes, hurricanes and tsunamis kill people and destroy property? Why do we have to suffer through snow and cold weather in winter and high humidity in the summer? Why is it that people become angry and frustrated over minor things?

It is because of **SIN**. Sin ruins everything!

Sin is everything that we think, do, and say that is against the will of God. Sin may seem a small thing, yet it ruins our life and spoils our relationship with others. Sin always makes something bad become something worse.

Sin has changed our relationship with God. At the time of Adam and Eve, mankind was sinless and holy. But they disobeyed God and fell into sin. When that happened, everything changed! Bad things happen because of sin. We are guilty of sin; we are not perfect; we are on the road to hell.

St. Paul had a lot to say about sin and death. He had to, he was a sinner. In fact, Paul called himself the Chief of Sinners. But Paul also spoke about Jesus Christ and the new life that comes through Jesus. Let's listen as Paul speaks of **Death through Adam – Life through Christ**.

Sin and death are inseparable buddies. Where sin is, death will follow. Where death is, sin has been. Paul said it this way: Just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death came to all men, because all have sinned.

From the time of our conception, each of us was a sinful human being. Solomon wrote, There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins.

Because of sin, we deserve God's punishment. God is love, but He is also holy and just. God must punish sin! Ezekiel wrote, The soul who sins is the one who will die.

God's punishment for sin is DEATH - eternal death in hell. You hear of plenty of disasters in the news today. But the worst disaster of all is death in hell.

Because our first parents, Adam and Eve sinned, we are sinful today. **Death through Adam!**

Our text says: But where sin increased, grace increased all the more. God loved us. Before the world was created, God knew us and loved us. This love is undeserved.

Whereas human beings sin and keep on sinning; God loved us and keeps on loving! God's love is like a gentle rain that falls on a dry and thirsty land. His love rains down upon us and brings about amazing results of faith.

Human beings are content to live in a cesspool of sin. But God did not want that for us. He wants human beings to live with Him in heaven. But in order for that to happen, God had to bring about a really, really big change. In the Garden of Eden God promised Satan: I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head and you will strike His heel. The Promised One was the Lord Jesus!

The main message of the OT was salvation through faith in the Messiah that God would send. One of the prophets who foretold the work of the Messiah, Isaiah, wrote that the Promised One would be pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities.

When the right time came, God sent His Son to be born of Mary. The sending of His Son to be our Savior, was the greatest showing of God's love. And the Savior's sacrifice was not just for some, but for all people.

Just think about that tremendous love that God had for us! Every sin of thought, word, or deed, is charged against us. We can't pay the penalty of our sin! The debt is too great!

Let's say that you only sin 100 times a day. Let's say that God's daily punishment for you is to drag a weight around with you that is equal to the sins you have committed. One day = 100 lbs. 2 days = 200 lbs. In 3 days even the strongest person here, would have trouble moving that weight. The total of my sins would make that weight 1,351 tons! My debt of sin is too great for me!

But Jesus came as my and your Substitute. He died to pay for our sins. He paid the debt we owed! When God looks at a Christian, He sees, not a sinner, but a saint, a child of God. We have **life through Christ.**

- *The Father sent Jesus to be our Savior because He loved us;*
- *Jesus suffered and died because He loved us;*
- *The Holy Spirit works faith in us because He loves us.*

I don't know why God loves me so much that He would die for me. But the Bible says He did – and I believe it!

Death through Adam – Life through Christ. Instead of death in hell, we look forward to life in heaven. Thanks to God!



Just as the sin of one man brought death to all people, the perfect life and innocent death of the Savior made sinners righteous!