

BACK TO ADAM AND FORWARD TO JESUS

Introduction – The universal human condition is characterized by rebellion against God's will. The way back home is the road of faith in the promises and actions of God. The climax to human history is the Creator God sacrificing his Son and then giving him resurrection life as cosmic ruler.

A. The results of God's actions for us give us access to a unique faith, hope, and love.

Romans 5:1-5

1. Our faith status allows us to rejoice in our future hope and present sufferings.
2. This special faith and hope produces a distinct Christian character that is overflowing with God's love.

B. Through Jesus we are reconciled enemies of God.

Romans 5:6-11

1. We do not like to think of ourselves as powerless.
2. Contrast the treatment of our enemies in World War I versus World War II.

C. God's intention for humanity (Adam) was for them to be his royal representatives ruling over the creation. This was undermined by our rebellion and sin beginning with Adam (Genesis 1-3).

Romans 5:12-17

1. Instead of humanity reigning as God intended, death reigned because of sin
2. Sin and death entered the world through one person, so the grace gift of life comes through one Savior.

D. Grace reigns in Christ bringing a new quality of life that will last forever.

1. Romans 5:18-21

Conclusion – When we choose to put our faith and hope in the message of the Bible, we can be reconciled to God and filled with His love and life.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the purpose of suffering in this life?
2. How is Adam a pattern of the future work of Jesus?
3. How has God's rescue of you changed your attitude and life?