

Romans 5:19

Greek

¹⁹ ὥσπερ γὰρ διὰ τῆς παρακοῆς τοῦ ἐνὸς ἀνθρώπου ἀμαρτωλοὶ κατεστάθησαν οἱ πολλοὶ οὕτως καὶ διὰ τῆς ὑπακοῆς τοῦ ἐνὸς δικαίου κατασταθήσονται οἱ πολλοὶ

ESV

¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

NKJV

¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Romans 5 brings a message of hope and encouragement, asserting the benefits of justification through faith. It emphasizes the triumphant power of God's love, which grants us peace, hope, and grace. Despite the reality of sin that started with Adam, we can find solace in the abundance of God's grace through the gift of righteousness in Jesus Christ.

All human life descended from the first man, Adam. He turned away from God's Word that gave him life. His disobedience made him a sinner, separated him from God, and brought death into the world. We are all sinners and subject to death because of Adam's fall.

All human life is redeemed from death by the obedience of Christ, the Second Adam. Where Adam in unbelief rejected God's Word of life, Jesus trusted in His Father to the point of suffering our death and dying in our place upon the cross. His obedience unto death is the source of righteousness, the forgiveness of sins, which restores our life and reconciles us to God. In His death, Jesus gave us His life "to help and support us in every physical need." Christ made the ultimate sacrifice of love for us so that we might live.

Adam's disobedience was an act of disbelief and rebellious mistrust of God. When he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he and all humanity were made sinners. Jesus' obedience, in laying down His life upon the cross for us as the Second Adam, was an act of faith and love for God. When He died on behalf of sinful man, the judgment of the Law was satisfied for us, resulting in the world's justification by which "many will be made righteous" through faith in Him. From a state of innocence Adam turned away from God's Word of life; this made sinners out of Adam and all his descendants. From a state of innocence the Second Adam remained faithful to the death of the cross, resulting in a Word of righteousness that justifies and saves sinners from their sin and death as a free gift of God's grace.

This is the message of all of Scripture: Jesus Christ took the place of sinful man, that sinful man might be reconciled to God. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous" (Romans 5:19). "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). "When the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).