

January 22, 2017

SIN, DEATH, & THE LAW

ROMANS 5.13-14, 20A (PS 19; NUM 15.22-31; LK 12.35-48)

5.12 - sin entered the world and death through sin with the result that all sinned. Sin latched on to the process of how God intended to move his creation forward into greater and greater glory, and it perverted it into this death that would progress into greater and greater rot.

The whole world is “under sin” (3.9). How does this work?

- Gentiles are “without Law” (i.e., Law is given to Israel; 2.14)
- Where there is no Law there is no transgression (4.15)
- Does this mean the Gentiles and the world before Moses are sinless?

vv 13-14, 20 - 1) Adam to Moses and Gentiles are “Lawless” but not sinless. 2) Law comes into the world to intensify sin.

v. 13 -

Note the story in Genesis for the presence of sin and death.

Sin is not reckoned/counted where there is no law.

Up to the time of the giving of the Law people lived under the general consequences/fruit of their sins (a judgment that is certainly from God), but these are not counted as violations of the revelation that God gave through the Law.

“Death reigned from Adam to Moses”

What difference does the Law make? Why introduce Law? “... in order that the trespass might abound.”

Sin of “wandering/erring/ignorance” vs. high-handed sin: Num 15.22-31

Living in this sin is living under the reign of death even without knowledge. Furthermore, God will still judge people as sinners with all of the consequences that come with that judgment.

Less knowledge = less punishment (Lk 12.48)

Acts 17.30 -

The Law-possessing Jews haven't become the answer to Adam's sin. They have become a part of it. The Law reveals that the Jews are just like Adam in sin.

“the Law came in in order that the trespass may abound.”

1) The Law reveals sin to be transgression.

2) The Law reveals the seriousness of sin as transgression.

3) The Law reveals and intensifies sin in each of us.

The Law intensified sin in Israel. In terms of God's working out salvation for the world, this means that nowhere else in the world was sin greater than in Israel. Greatest knowledge through the Law; greatest sin because of it.

1. Those who have not heard the gospel will still die in their sins, but their punishment will not be as severe as those who willfully rebel against the gospel.

2. We, the church, have a greater responsibility to God because of the revelation we have received.

3. Learn to distinguish between the good revelation of God and the sin that dwells in you.