

March 3, 2023

A Man Named Paul

Romans 5: 12-19

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Upon my initial reading of today's scripture, I knew that I had some work to do. I wanted to learn more about Paul, and the scripture turned out to be a challenge for me. Reading Romans from *The New International Version* was my first step. And yes, I must confess, I read Romans from *THE MESSAGE*, too. Comparing the scriptures in each version resulted in my clearer understanding of Paul's letter.

I took time to read both the Introduction to Romans, and the commentary in Chapter 5, in which we find today's scripture. They contained points of interest and information that contribute to the study of the scripture. For example, I read that some believe that Paul's letter to the Romans "...manages to encompass all essentials of the Christian faith." (Introduction to Romans, *The New International Version*).

Paul's self-made mission was to travel near and far to tell the people of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. With Paul's guidance, Christian churches were established, and Christianity grew. Paul's travel became extensive, and he began connecting through letters to his established churches because traveling took far too much time.

Paul's letter was directed to the church in Rome, but news of his letter and its content traveled far and wide. In it, he reminded the people that, from the beginning of time, and because of Adam's sinful actions, everyone—man, woman, and child -- was separated from God because of their sin and death.

That's the way it was until God changed things. How wonderful Paul must have felt when sharing that God had a gift for the people, a rescuing gift, a life gift, the gift of grace through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, how great are your messengers—those like the Apostle Paul. Long ago Paul committed a lifetime to serving you, he nurtured his new Christians, and he supported and loved them. In the busyness of our world today, may we learn from him to connect and care as he did. Amen

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