

I. Mark 2:1-12. Why did Jesus forgive this man's sins before he healed him?

- A. Because the real problem was not the physical illness.
- B. The real problem was and is the metaphysical reality of sin/evil, which causes illness and death universally.
- C. Jesus came to deal with death itself, which means dealing with sin.

II. Romans explains how the Lord's life, death, resurrection accomplishes victory over sin and death. Chapters 1-4.

III. Romans 5: We have a new relationship with God in Christ.

- A. It is a legal pardon. Justification. 1-2
 - 1. Peace with God. Because our record expunged
 - 2. Declaration of goodness before goodness is accomplished (Rom.3:28)
- B. It is supernatural life. Regeneration. 5, 10.
 - 1. We have been made spiritually alive. 10
 - 2. The life of Christ saving us. 10
- C. It is relational healing. Reconciliation. 10-11
 - 1. The healing of a broken relationship, enemies to friends.
 - 2. We now call God, Father. Jn.20:17

IV. But how does it work? Amazingly! 12-21

- A. All the way back to Adam, Creation, Fall. 12
 - 1. He bypasses Moses and even Abraham!
- B. Adam sinned and broke us off from God's life – Law, Sin and Death. 12-14
 - 1. He represented us and passed his characteristics on to us. 12
 - a) Spiritual death: separation of our soul from God.
 - b) Physical death = separation of soul from body, result of spiritual death
 - 2. Sin was here, but Law defined it, made it transgression. 13-14
 - a) Transgression/trespass: parabasis = actual breaking of a known law.
 - 3. He was a "prototype" (CSB) of a coming One, a greater reality. 14
 - a) Tupos = an example, pattern for larger one.
- C. But Christ obeyed and undid Adam's sin—Grace, Righteousness, and Life. 15-19.
 - 1. First contrast. 15
 - a) Adam's sin brought death to many
 - b) Christ's gift brings grace and life to many
 - 2. Second contrast. 16
 - a) Adam's sin started with one and spread death
 - b) Christ's gift started with all the sin and spread life
 - 3. Third contrast. 17
 - a) Adam's representation and sin resulted in condemnation to all—death reigning.
 - b) Christ's representation and gift of righteousness results in justification—reign in Him
 - 4. Fourth contrast. 18
 - a) Adam's one transgression = condemnation to all in him
 - b) Christ's one righteousness = justification to all in Him
 - 5. Fifth contrast. 19
 - a) Adam's disobedience made the many sinners.
 - b) Christ's obedience makes the many righteous.
 - 6. Sixth contrast. 20-21.
 - a) Law came to intensify the sin and bring it to a head.
 - b) Grace in Christ matched and beat the sin.

V. So, life is not what it looks like. We must learn from the Lord...

A. About ourselves.

1. Humans form one organism.
 - a) We are metaphysically connected to each other and Adam. This is assumed by Paul.
 - b) Note: he bypasses the distinction between Jew/ Gentile, male/female.
2. The organism is dying.
 - a) Death proves our souls are sinful.
 - b) Morality is a Fact: Death proves it. Sin = Death.
3. Nothing in the created order can save us.
 - a) Law/Sin/Death is the most powerful force in the cosmos. Inevitable and inexorable.
 - b) Torah is Old Order.
4. *If only there were something from outside the created order...*

B. About our rescue: What has God done for us in Christ?

1. He has given us a free gift that cost him everything. 15-17 2 Cor.5:21.
 - a) Free Gift (5 times here)
 - b) Reconciliation.
2. He has transferred us into a new race under a new reality. Col.1:13-14
 - a) Christ changes our domain, race, from Law/Sin/Death to Grace/ Righteousness/ Life (Acts 26:18)
3. He has overwhelmed sin by Grace. 20.
 - a) Grace/Righteousness/Life is infinitely more powerful (superabundantly)—*because it is sourced outside the created order!*
4. He has reversed death by resurrection. 21. 1 Cor.15:54-58
 - a) God's life is infinitely more powerful than human death.
 - b) Like the tree growing through the asphalt.