

BIBLE & BAGEL

Romans – Our Common Faith

30 December 2015

Have you ever looked at a baby and said “wow he really looks like his father”? How did the baby get to look like that? He inherited his father’s physical traits, it was not something the baby chose it was just in his genes. Likewise none of us chose to be born a sinner but everyone is simply because it is in our spiritual DNA. Someone once said we are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners. The human nature we inherited from the first man and woman has been affected by their disobedience to God. It is like a sickness that we inherit. God has given us a cure for this hereditary disease; the sacrifice of His Son Yeshua.

Romans 5:12-19

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned — 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. 15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. 17 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. NKJV

The Apostle Paul now begins to explain how the law of sin and death works. It was through one man’s (Adam’s) sin that death entered the world and everyone was affected. He also explains that it was not Torah that brought death because death was here before the Torah was given. So even though a person did break an explicit command given in the Torah he or she is guilty of sin, the penalty of which is death.

Adam was like Messiah in that through him all man became sinful, through Messiah Yeshua all man can be forgiven and receive the free gift of everlasting life from God. So just as one man brought sin and death into the world, by one man also, the free gift of salvation came into the world.

The Apostle explains the principle of sin and death to both Jew and Gentile but he emphasizes that even though one does not have the Torah, he is not guiltless. Death he says was already in the world before Torah was given to man at Mount Sinai. Sin can be likened to a hereditary disease that we get not because of anything we specifically have done but it is simply in our genes. But there is a cure and that cure has been offered freely to all mankind; the atoning death of Messiah Yeshua. This gift Paul says is given by the grace or generosity of God.



We have no excuse; we cannot say that we are not sinners because we did not know the law. A person who comes to visit Singapore is subject to the laws of the land regardless whether he or she knows what all the laws are. When we break the law, knowingly or unknowingly we deserve to be punished according to the law. God in His generosity has given us a way out of being punished for sin; Yeshua our Messiah who took our punishment for us.

Romans 5:20-21

20 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. NKJV

God gave the Torah so that people would be conscious of sin and when we are conscious of sin we become aware of our need for forgiveness and we would know how generous God is in forgiving our sin when we place our faith in our Lord Yeshua.

Because of Torah we become aware that we are sinners and we need a savior, otherwise we would be sinners without knowing it. Like a person who has a terminal disease but because the symptoms are not obvious the person can die of it without ever knowing about it. The Torah (Bible) is like a doctor who tells you what sickness you have and can only prescribe the medicine that you need to get well. If you do not take the medicine prescribed by the doctor, you can't blame the doctor if you do not get well and die. Today healthcare is very expensive, always a talking point come election time, God's medicine however is given freely out of His great generosity, what the Bible calls 'grace', let's thank God for His generosity towards us and live everyday with an attitude of gratitude.

