

Title: Invitation To Live - Romans 5 12-21

Read:

¹²⁻¹⁴You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in— first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death. That sin disturbed relations with God in everything and everyone, but the extent of the disturbance was not clear until God spelled it out in detail to Moses. So death, this huge abyss separating us from God, dominated the landscape from Adam to Moses. Even those who didn't sin precisely as Adam did by disobeying a specific command of God still had to experience this termination of life, this separation from God. But Adam, who got us into this, also points ahead to the One who will get us out of it. ¹⁵⁻¹⁷Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man's sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God's gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There's no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, sovereign life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides? ¹⁸⁻¹⁹Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right. ²⁰⁻²¹All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn't, and doesn't, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace. When it's sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that's the end of it. Grace, because God is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.

Think:

The devil may seek you out and condemn you. You might hear whispers in your head that say things like “you can't do that”. As you are about to invite someone to youth group you might hear the voice say “you'r rubbish, they will laugh at you”. That's all the enemy can do, is to tell you how bad you are and how what Jesus did wasn't for you. Jesus says that's rubbish, and he thinks you are brilliant, so brilliant he was willing to give up his life for you. That is the grace that is talked about in this passage. Jesus' answer is come follow him and live life to the full. He doesn't say come and follow this great big list of rules I have created, no that's not the Jesus way. The grace that Jesus brought says, you want to be on the winning team, you want excitement, you want life to the full then lets do it together. So I don't know about you but we at Aftershock are about living this life that Jesus gave us to the full, are you coming

Pray:

Lord I thank you that you have give me this life. Father please help me grab every opportunity to live my life to the full. Amen

Action:

So what does living you life to the full mean to you? Pickup the phone and tell someone now, and commit to running towards whatever that is. Hey we would love to hear too, email us today at podcast@afterswhock.org.uk. Bye for now.