

Introduction: When I was growing up, we had a school project to come home and draw a tree and put as many relatives on the tree as we could. Kids would call grandma and ask who they remember, some families had records and very strong ideas. Lots of research – easy assignment. Great job of having generations interact - but was often made more complex due to varying family situations and the shame or confusion that can cause in young kids.

Today, companies like **Ancestry.com and 23andMe** do the genetic analysis companies - some for health and possible early detection and some for personal interest about where we come from-do we have 3% German and can that explain why my kid should do an engineering degree (it's in the family). - You might discover good: you have a relative with royal blood or shameful: your great, great, grandad played a role in Hitler's regime.

Our blood type and propensity to certain health concerns show up in ancestry. Today, we are going to be looking at the Bible's claim that *we all have a common lineage in this character named Adam – we are a part of the story of humanity that shares an origin - but also look at Paul's words that **another Adam arrived on the scene***

This is the first week of **Advent**, a season celebrating the arrival of Jesus as a child. The theme for Advent is taken from the song, **O Holy Night – A Thrill of Hope**. And we will be looking at patterns in OT that show up in NT. I love this kind of stuff

I was thinking, Score! This is going to be great “I'm going to be handing out Theological Christmas presents” - A message on hope in Advent - it's going to be like stocking stuffers, people are going to eat this up.

So, my assignment is Rom 5 to explain how Jesus is the New/Better Adam and show the hope that brings for those in Christ. I started to work.

A NT prof who has shaped the way I read the Bible and is often a go-to resource for me in untangling knots in scripture has a commentary on Romans (over 900 pages) and I scanned the section heading, “Hope” (chap 5-8, and subtitle of chapter 5 “source of hope” - Again, awesome!

Then I started reading and the first paragraph says this, ... **READ** “Romans 5:12-21 is one of the most difficult and controversial passages to interpret in all of Pauline literature.”ⁱ **Oh snap!** (this letter is considered the most condensed theological treatise in all of Paul, Paul - as described by one of the other authors in the Bible and a guy who walked around with Jesus for 3 years - says Paul writes some things that are hard to understand .

Immediately switched my mindset -First, I have to understand this and then I'm going to try to explain to people – its Communion, I have less time, they will be post-tryptophan hangover and the next thing you know I'm trying to find out if I can switch weeks with Mike. But, here we are so Let's do this! 1st: Pathway to Hope, The Need for Hope, The Enemies of Hope and the Triumph and Task of Hope

1. A Pathway towards Hope READ Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, (Pause) because we know that suffering produces perseverance;⁴ perseverance, character; and character, **hope.**⁵ And **hope** does not put us to shame (or “does not disappoint”), because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Now, this passage alone and the pathway to hope that is mentioned is a sermon all by itself. I simply want to make 2 quick comments as intro to Romans 5:12ff...

1) Paul is writing to these Roman Christians to make sure they can live as people of Hope. That is our goal too. It is appropriated in a sequence, backwards: hope – character – endurance/perseverance, learned by suffering

“Anticipating a future that is better than the present.”
HOPE. - to wait (a chord pulled tight to create tension) - a farmer qavahs for the crops to come inⁱⁱ

2) The hope is placed on a person, not a circumstance.ⁱⁱⁱ Optimistic thinking is a choice to assume circumstances will work out well. Optimism is more like playing the probability than believing a promise, it is often associated with a personality trait or learned behavior.

Shark Fin Illustration – which one is the Christian approach to viewing the beach on your vacation? Take both optimism/pessimism of the table – third way. Person of hope. A realism about the world in light of who God is.

2.: The Need for Hope is cosmic READ Rom 5:12-17 –

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law. (**Short Pause:** see why I wanted Mike to do this?)
¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern (or “type”) of the one to come.¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 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!

Back to Gen 1: This is a cosmic look at humanity – going all the way back to Adam, the first man. (Back up

to garden story where God drops these **reflections of himself on** the earth he created and gives them all the gifts and abilities to bring life out of the world... in the same way He is building and creating order out of chaos, the ‘Adam’ (or human) is given the task to do that in the garden and rule over sky flyers of air and the tail swimmers of the sea of see and the land running animals.

The task was to run the earth as a regent or ambassador for God. God was running the world by proxy – with these image bearing creatures. “Very Good” - Hebrew word: excessively, abundantly, ridiculously, very good^{iv}

In the middle of watching **Buddy Elf** do the unforgettable climb up the escalator or watching **Cousin Eddie** for the third time show up at Clark Griswald’s house or watching **Ralphie open his red rider bb gun** - go back and watch C.S. Lewis’ Narnia and listen for the subtle, but brilliant way he depicts Peter and Lucy and Edmond enter a world run by animal type creatures – some ½ animal ½ man who are on the lookout for “the sons of Adam and daughters of Eve” because whoever fits that category has authority in the land and can possibly stand up to the powers of the white witch. But, no longer in Eden! The Very Goodness now has thorns, thistles – ice.

People need hope to live This is a cosmic reality of all humans, generation, ethnicity, wealth, education, etc. Solidarity exist on this point. **So we need to take a look at the family inheritance – what does that mean for us? Why are people who want/need hope?**

3.The Enemies of Hope: Sin and Death. :12 says **4 clear things:** Sin entered through one man, Death followed sin, Death came to all people, because all sinned.

The Bible is like a good doctor in that it doesn’t shy away from the things that are difficult. The biblical authors skipped class on political correctness lectures and need a better editor if they want to avoid making people feel bad. It’s raw. It’s real life. **They use words like Sin.**

Sin-Revolt or rebellion against God. A strong plea of independence – dethroning God or de-godding God of his place. It is a matter of the heart. Rule, not be ruled.

Sin is shown as the enemy, but people no longer want to name the enemies. Don’t want to talk about sin.

American Psychiatrist Karl Menninger has written a book about the disappearance of the word sin from American vocabulary. **READ** He notes, “many former sins have become “crimes” so that responsibility for dealing with them has passed from church to state – from priest to policeman, while others have dissipated into sickness, or at least into symptoms of sickness, so that in their case punishment has been replaced by treatment. A third convenient device called “collective responsibility” has enable us to transfer the blame from some of our deviant behavior from ourselves as individuals to society as a whole or to a specific group in society.^v

I don’t necessarily agree with all of the professors insights, but I do think “Sin” - no longer a word in the

modern vocabulary because it has a basic presupposition that a higher power - a moral standard exist that can even be transgressed or trespasses (going across the fence, you have to believe a real fence exists and modern secular people – although they seem to be creating fences all the time – the point is they do not believe a “divine fence” – or moral standard exists so of course you can’t cross it and “Sin” (only crimes against state, self, others) Paul says Sin entered through the first human (Adam) against God and we are all in him. Paul, reading Genesis, connects Sin and Death – as enemies of Hope

I want to you to see that there is both a condition of the human family and common symptoms, behaviors that we all exhibit. This opens the conversation of Original Sin. I couldn’t decide to quote Augustine, Aquinas (Catholic), Kuyper (Reformed).. so

READ Little Oink: Now comes the story of Little Oink, little oink was a neat little pig. He liked a lot of things. **(Page)** He dug playing with his pig pals **(Page)** He savored his days at school – sloppy joes at lunch **(Page)** And he relished nighttime with Mama Pig and Pap Pig... this little piggy – But there was one thing Little Oink did not like: **(Page)** Mess up time. Because that is what you have to do when you’re a pig. Make a mess, mess, mess! – “All my friends get to clean their rooms. Why can’t I? asked Little Oink. **(Page)** “If you want to grow up to be a respectable pig, you must learn how to make a proper mess,” said Papa Pig. – “Mess up your room, put on some dirty clothes, and then you can go out and play.” Said Mama Pig. – “Do I have to?” Little Oink snorted. – “Yes, you have to,” they retorted.... So off he went. (When I grow up, I’m going to let my kids clean up their rooms as much as they want!) **(Page)** He unmade his bed. He unfolded his clothes. He threw his towel on the floor. He put on a stained T-shirt. **(Page)** He

dragged in some mud. “Have I messed up enough? Asked Little Oink. – “I still see toys in their bin, mister. Please – not another word until this room’s a total pigsty!” **(Page)** One toy, Two toys.... **(Page)** There. Now can I go play? - - “Yes, little piglet, now you can go play.” And Little Oink Ran of to play his most favorite game, **(Page)** House. **(Page)** And they all lived hap-pig-ly ever after.

This is only funny because we all know that by nature, pigs are mess makers – not house cleaners. Paul, here, and elsewhere, explains our corrupted/bent nature that longs to displace – dethrone, de-God God so we can rule

That is my best sophisticated explanation of original sin. **What is true of Adam is true of you.** We inherited a sin nature, a corrupted bent away from God. Now, you might not like the way that is framed, many disagree –Is this Federal Headship? Collective Identity or aren’t we Individuals? Realistic or Representative Theory...

There are times you want to have a collective identity, to be a part of something you did not directly do, right? 2016 – World Series, 10th Inning, “We Win”

We can talk more, but I want to make sure you at least agree that all exhibit behaviors the Bible describes as sin.

British author, G. K. Chesterton was once asked to publish a response to the question “what is wrong with the world?” With characteristic wit and aplomb, he sent the editors back four words: “Dear Sirs, I am.”

Universal–yes but individual as well

:14 (time of Adam-Moses, law) In case the Gentiles thought Paul was picking on them as not the people of God – the ‘needy’ ones OR the opposite, in case the **Gentiles** were saying – this whole ‘sin’ thing doesn’t apply to us, we didn’t the rules to the game – we were not given the Law, how could we be responsible for something we don’t know about. Paul here explains that death reigned even from all the generations from Adam to Moses, which is at least a few thousand years where we have the genealogy. Jews and Gentiles – both, but that means the defeat of the enemy applies to both... let’s turn to the triumph over sin/death.

4.The Triumph of Hope: The main reason Paul is uses Adam is not first and foremost Adam, but the type or pattern or category Adam creates that Jesus fulfill:

READ 14/15“Adam, who is a pattern (or “type”) of the one to come. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ

What is True of Jesus is True of those in Jesus. Sin and Death came with Adam, but a New Adam has arrived on the scene – He brings righteousness and life. Everything Adam lost, was regained in Christ.^{vi}

The Great Reversal of the Human Story.^{vii} Adam was in a garden and said, not your will but mine be done. Jesus showed up in a garden the night before his crucifixion and said not my will but yours be done.

Adam was cast out of the garden (God’s presence) and deserved it. Jesus did not deserve it but was willingly cast out so that we could enter back into God’s presence.

Now, as those in Christ – we have all the rights and privileges and responsibilities of the new family. **What God says about us (justified and right) is more true than what we say or think about ourselves.** The Triumph took place in Christ’s death and resurrection.

One author, “Jesus burst through the cup-de-sac of death into life. He went all the way with the first Adam to the end of Adam in death. But beyond death he re-emerged as a new Adam whose hallmark is life from the dead. By sinking to the depths with man in death, the depths of his present plight, he was able to catch up man in resurrection, to make it possible for God’s original intention for man to be fulfilled at last.”^{viii}

There is a mission, a task of what we are to do with the gift of life we have been given. Not to sit and wait around for heaven or watch the skies for a new advent. The Task

5.The Task of Hope: **How do you/I actually live as a hopeful person?:**¹⁷ “reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!”

Jesus – the role of resurrection and God’s intention for a new creation, a new world where you don’t just get glimpses of his kingdom, but you get the full thing.

E.B. White - Charlotte's Web. Story of a pig who almost lost his life at the beginning of the story for being the runt, but was rescued by a young girl Fern and story continues this theme of rescue because pigs don't make it past Christmas (250lbs by 25 weeks)

At the close of the story, after the community has seen the value of this pig through the messages spun on the spider's web... Wilbur gets a medal at the competition and Charlotte and Wilbur were alone. The families had gone to look for Fern. Templeton was asleep. Wilbur lay resting after the excitement and strain of the ceremony. His medal still hung from his neck...

Charlotte says, **READ** "Your success in the ring this morning was, to a small degree, my success. Your future is assured. You will live, secure and safe, Wilbur.

Nothing can harm you now. These autumn days will shorten and grow cold. The leaves will shake loose from the trees and fall. Christmas will come, then the snows of winter. You will live to enjoy the beauty of the frozen world... Winter will pass, the days will lengthen, the ice will melt in the pasture pond. The song sparrow will return and sing, the frogs will awake, the warm wind will blow again. All these sights and sounds and smells will be yours to enjoy.."

The Task of Hope, ironically, is displayed beautifully in E.B. Whites manuscript. In 1973, Hollywood made the first cartoon depiction of the movie and as you can imagine, they wanted to take Charlotte's death out of the film – a kids story, why would this heroic character who used all of her life to save the life of another need to die

in the end? White held his ground and insisted the story must be told as written – he saw it as essential to the narrative world he created. I'm glad he did. I am also glad he didn't stop the story there, but added a chapter where Wilbur responds to the gift of life that he was given. He gets to the task.

Wilbur replies, **READ** "I'm no good at making speeches. I haven't got your gift for words. But you have saved me, Charlotte, and I would gladly give my life for you—I really would." In the final moments of Charlotte's life, he gets Templeton, the comic relief – overeating rat, to climb to the top of the barn and bring the woven sack of Charlotte's little babies. He takes them back to the Zuckerman farm and gives life to care for them.

Wendell Berry: Path vs. Road^{ix} Hope often enters through suffering and affliction, Hope works in us to produce endurance where we can withstand enormous pressure and odds, and then in the process we become a new type of person – a person of character who doesn't have a flimsy faith ready to turn and run, but a sturdy faith ready to live for others. It is durable and rugged, able to see past the circumstances of the moment to a future that is held by a God who gave his only Son so we can journey through the cul-de-sac of death to life.

Return to tree assignment. Who is in your bloodline? Hope is not a part of every family, but it is part of Jesus' family. We are about to finish our service at every

campus with a family meal/practice built around the new and better family Jesus made, a family of hope.

Prayer

Outline Intro: Tree assignment.. Ancestry/23&Me..

we all have a common lineage in this character named Adam – we are a part of the story of humanity that shares an origin - but also look at Paul’s words that another Adam arrived on the scene

Advent - A Thrill of Hope, theological Christmas present – Schreiner line - oh snap, that sleepy post black Friday, tryptophan hangover. Trade with Mike.

So, my assignment is Rom 5 – 5 aspects of hope to explain how Jesus is the New/Better Adam and show the hope that brings for those in Christ.

1. A Pathway towards Hope –Rom 5:1-5 1) become a people of hope 2)hope is in a person, dorsal fin illustration, not optimism/pessimism – 3rd way

2. The Cosmic Need for Hope- Rom 5:12-17, back to Gen 1 (representative, run the world – very good), Narnia – no longer Eden. *People need hope to live* Why...

3.The Enemies of Hope: Sin and Death, Sin-revolt, degodding God, Menninger quote, Secular view, Original Sin (Little Oink), “What is true of Adam is true of you” (bent away from God), GK Chesterton – bring it home

4.The Triumph of Hope:Adam = type/pattern, True of Jesus is True of those in Jesus... great reversal, all lost regained, not my will but yours, Adam cast out of garden/Jesus cast out so we could enter and have hope

5.The Task of Hope: E.B White, Wilbur – giving of life for another – re-representing god, doing the work

ⁱ Thomas Schreiner, Romans (5:12), p

ⁱⁱ Bible Project explanation of Hebrew words (Advent video, 4 minutes)

ⁱⁱⁱ Insight from Tim Mackie sermon (Isaiah 9)

^{iv} Lecture on Faith and Innovation, The Forgotten Power of Play Dave Bindewald

^v This quote in John Stott’s book, The Cross of Christ, 92-93.

^{vi} Donald Guthrie, NT Theology, 336

^{vii} See Cranfield, 114. Romans, A shorter commentary, CEB.

^{viii} James Dunn, 111 Christology in the Making

ix – Wendell Berry, excerpt from *A Native Hill*