

“Messages of Romans”
Romans 1:1, 7
September 13, 2020

I. The Message of Two Humanities

- A. One humanity, originated through Adam, is characterized by pervasive idolatry, ingratitude, and corruption.

Romans 3:10–12 - ¹⁰ as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

- B. Another humanity, originated through Jesus, is forgiven, faithful, obedient, and loving.

Romans 4:7 - *Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven, And whose sins have been covered.*

Romans 3:31 - *Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.*

Romans 16:19 - *For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you...*

Romans 13:8 - *Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.*

Romans 6:4 - *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

II. The Message of Two Ages

- A. One age, beginning at Adam’s fall, is characterized by sin, death, and condemnation (Gal. 1:4).
- B. The other age, beginning at Christ’s resurrection, is characterized by righteousness (imputed and imparted), eternal life, and glory.

Galatians 1:4 - *who [Jesus] gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.*

- C. Though the age of Adam will end forever at Christ’s return, it currently persists alongside the age of Christ.

III. The Message of a Two-Stage Salvation in the Overlap of the Ages

- A. Believers “straddle” the two ages in this life.
- B. This is felt in the moral life of Christians.
1. In their inner man, believers are forgiven and transformed, belonging to Christ’s age.
 2. But their outer man (the flesh) still belongs to the age of Adam and leads to sin and frustration.

Romans 7:24 - *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?*

3. Yet Jesus will ultimately preserve and deliver His people from their remaining sin.

Romans 7:25 - Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- C. This is felt while Christians endure life in a fallen and broken world.

1. Yet believers and creation will one day be delivered from all the troubles of this life.

Romans 8:20–25 - ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³ And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴ For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

2. Until that day, nothing in creation will separate us from God's loving intent to complete our salvation.

Romans 8:38–39 - ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.