

## **Chapter 1: The Triune God who Comforts from Sin**

1689 Updated by Peter Masters - Of Christ the Mediator - Chapter 8:1 - It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain [appoint] the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, in accordance with the covenant made between them both, to be the Mediator between God and man;<sup>1</sup> to be Prophet<sup>2</sup> [Teacher], Priest<sup>3</sup> [Mediator], and King,<sup>4</sup> the Head and Saviour of His Church,<sup>5</sup> the Heir of all things,<sup>6</sup> and the Judge of all the world.<sup>7</sup> To the Lord Jesus He gave, from all eternity, a people to be His seed [His children]. These, in time [the dispensation of time], would be redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified by the Lord Jesus.<sup>8</sup> [Redeemed = purchased from bondage by the precious blood of Christ. Called = the personal and irresistible call of the Shepherd. Justified = declared righteous and pardoned in God's sight. Sanctified = healed and changed for holiness by His power. Glorified = finally transformed and invested with perfect beauty when exalted to the glory of Heaven.]

1 Isa 42.1; 1 Pet 1.19-20. 2 Acts 3.22. 3 Heb 5.5-6. 4 Psa 2.6; Luke 1.33.  
5 Eph 1.22-23. 6 Heb 1.2. 7 Acts 17.31. 8 Isa 53.10; John 17.6; Rom 8.30.

Romans 5:18-19 (NASB 95) 18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

### **Ideas throughout the Chapter:**

- 1) Christians have fears and doubts
- 2) Having sin in the soul is the valley of sin
- 3) Christ is the conqueror of the valley of sin through His covenant
- 4) Christ is with His people during struggles and concerns of life

Please read additional references: Psalms 23:4, Psalms 58:3 with Romans 3 and Ephesians 2, Psalms 91:5, Psalms 138:7, Matthew 4:14-17 , John 3:36, John 10:25-33 with John 6:30-52, 2 Corinthians 3:5, Philippians 2:12-13, Revelation 5:8-9 with 1 John 1:6-7 and Romans 5:8-10.

Christians have many fears. Lack of food, illness, nowhere to live, conflict and future needs. There are spiritual struggles that come as persecution from walking with Christ and the struggle of committing a particular sinful action without end. Who should Christians look to? Jesus Christ is there for every struggle that Christians will face.

How does any human in sin become a Christian? By God working. The Ten Commandments from Exodus 20 reveal the fruit of sin in the soul of all humans. It is not enough to make a list of wrongs from the 10 Commandments thinking I broke some but I am good. Why? Sin is in the soul of all humans. This sin in the soul causes all humans to rebel against God starting at birth. All humans go astray from birth with many sins. To lie to or manipulate parents is a good example. Babies can easily be deceptive to manipulate parents. All humans have a soul that is corrupted. Every human is a child of God's justice by nature because there is an internal corruption that leads us to being guilty in God's holy court. No human is good or seeks after God because of the corruption in the soul. Where does this corruption come from? Adam represents all humans passing along a corrupted nature to all his family. Why? Adam rebelled in the garden. The garden has Adam in a special status to represent humans. This rebellion leads to all humans becoming sinners in God's holy court. Salvation is not required if humans do not inherit Adam's curse of a corrupted soul or are not part of Adam's family. No connection to Adam means no need for salvation. Where is there hope? Jesus Christ is hope for some humans. Many humans stay in their sin to be represented by Adam. Jesus Christ has a special status to represent humans. Some humans see God's mercy in Jesus Christ as they become represented by Jesus Christ. What does God do to apply Jesus Christ's mercy to some humans? God uses Christians explaining the Bible's message of hope to open the hearts of some rebelling humans. Humans cannot submit and will not submit to God. God has to act. This action from God leads many humans to repent and embrace the saviour Jesus Christ. Humans in rebellion turn away from sin to reject it. Then there is the embracing of the way of life found in Christ Jesus alone. Humans will confess Christ as Lord with their mouths. Jesus Christ alone is the place where all Christians rest for mercy from God's justice. God's activity in the soul leads many humans to freedom. This is how to become a Christian. The books of Romans, Hebrews, and Mark explain this in great detail. Study these books to understand the process of God saving many of Adam's lost family. Please see Exodus 20, Psalms 58:3 with 1 John 1:6-10, Acts 16:14 with Romans 8:5-10 and Romans 10, Romans 7:7 with Romans 3:19-20, Ephesians 2:1-7 with Romans 2 to Romans 3:18, Romans 5:14-19, and 1 Corinthians 15:22.

Jesus Christ comes for a specific illness in Adam's family. Humans who have moral goodness and have the ability to seek after God do not need any saviour. Why? These humans are good and righteous and do not have a legal debt of sin owing to God. These humans do not meet the requirements of what sin is in Romans that requires Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Jesus Christ may be helpful. Go study Pelagius's teaching from the fifth century. The church of his day condemned his teaching as damnable heresy because Jesus is optional to be brought near to God. It became known as Pelagianism. Any position that rejects Adam gives sin and passing a sinful nature to his children is a repeat of Pelagius's damnable teaching. This position does not require Jesus Christ as a saviour because of the moral goodness found in humans. God cannot condemn humans who have moral goodness in His holy court. Many today teach or affirm what Pelagius taught. Who then needs the great God and Saviour Jesus Christ? The sick and the unrighteous. Humans who are dead in sin from birth. To be dead in sin means humans need freedom from the sinful corruption in the soul and who have an owing of a legal debt of sin to God. The references above explain the sinful illness. God has been clear about what sin actually is. Christians should just receive what God has revealed. Jesus Christ, in passages like Matthew 9:11-13 and Mark 2:16-17, reveals that He comes and will heal unrighteous humans that require God to act. There is no salvation without God acting.

1689 Updated by Peter Masters - The Fall of Man, Sin and Its Punishment - Chapter 6:2 - 2 Our first parents, by this sin, fell from their original righteousness and communion with God, and we in them. [We fell with them, as a race.] For from this, death came upon all:3 all becoming dead in sin4 and wholly defiled in all the faculties and parts of soul and body.5

3 Rom 3.23. 4 Rom 5.12, etc. 5 Tit 1.15; Gen 6.5; Jer 17.9; Rom 3.10-19.

1689 Updated by Peter Masters - The Fall of Man, Sin and Its Punishment - Chapter 6:3 - 3. They being the root, and by God's appointment, standing in the room and stead [the place] of all mankind, the guilt of this sin was imputed [ascribed], and their corrupted nature conveyed, to all their posterity descending from them by ordinary generation6 [birth]. Their descendants are therefore conceived in sin,7 and are by nature the children of wrath,8 the servants of sin, and the subjects of death9 and all other miseries, spiritual, temporal, and eternal, unless the Lord Jesus sets them free.10

6 Rom 5.12-19; 1 Cor 15.21-22, 45, 49. 7 Psa 51.5; Job 14.4. 8 Eph 2.3.

9 Rom 6.20 & 5.12. 10 Heb 2.14-15; 1 Thess 1.10.

Either Adam or Christ represents humans. How is this known? Romans 5:14-19 explains that one man makes all humans outside of God's mercy sinners. Adam is the man who makes humans sinners. Does Adam foreshadow Christ? Yes. Adam is a type that foreshadows Christ coming to bring freedom for many humans in sin. Humans can stay in a state of sin and death that comes from Adam imputing sin and death. Impute or imputing means to give. Christ imputes genuine life, forgiveness of sin, and a perfect record of keeping God's standard to some humans. Adam not passing on sin means there is no need for Jesus Christ to give anything. Why? This is a denial of imputing. No connection to the man who makes all humans a sinner means there is no sin in humans. Humans cannot give sin to Jesus Christ to atone for on the cross. The idea of imputing sin and life is essential for God to be merciful. The only other way for all humans to be in sin is for all humans to have some agreement with God that leads to death. This would be a repeat of Adam in Genesis 2. The Bible does not contain this idea. It is not enough to lie or steal without an agreement between God and humans with the threat of do this and die. A covenant between God and humans is an authoritative agreement where God commands. God will grant humans rewards for obedience and consequences for disobedience. Adam in Genesis 2 was in covenant with God. Death comes from Adam to all humans for this reason.

Adam has been an important theme so far in this chapter. Why? Passages like Romans 5:14-19 and Genesis 2 reveal that Adam represents humans. He is responsible for attributing and giving spiritual rebellion and death to all humans. What does Genesis 2 reveal? Genesis 2 reveals that God made Adam from the dust of the ground. God gives physical and spiritual life to Adam because all life flows from God. God is uncreated and self-sustaining. Humans need God to exist and to survive. The garden grew to maturity to produce food and is pleasing to see because God caused this maturity in the plants. The Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil are present in the garden. Adam was in the Garden of Eden by himself since God had not yet made Eve. What was Adam doing? Adam was a gardener and kept the garden in good condition because God placed Adam in the garden for this role. God gave Adam one command: Do not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Why? Death will come from Adam's rebellion. Spiritual life will be gone to be replaced with spiritual death as in deep rebellion against God in the soul of Adam. Genesis 3 shows death is more than to die physically. Spiritual death is rebellion against God that leads to physical death. Adam will physically die eventually. God made Eve after He made this covenant with Adam. Eve eats some of the forbidden fruit and nothing happens. Why? There is no covenant with God. Adam eats. He knows which tree he is eating from. Adam had this knowledge because an excellent gardener knows their garden and what it will produce. Sin entered the creation. Eve has the infection of sin because of Adam. Sin affected both Adam and Eve at the same time. Both knew they were naked and tried to cover their

groins. Adam and Eve did not perceive that they were naked before sin entered the world. Adam fails as the representative to obtain life for humans based on his disobedience. This is called the Covenant of Works. Any human without a connection or a relationship with Adam needs to be in a sinless state while being in covenant with God to receive death after breaking a command. Humans do not need salvation if there is no relationship with Adam to impute sin or being in a covenant like Adam had in Genesis 2. Romans 5:14-19 explains that all humans are in rebellion against God unless Jesus Christ gives life. The good news is that Jesus Christ establishes a new covenant based on His mercy for many humans.

Jesus Christ establishes a better covenant. Christ succeeds where Adam fails. Adam could have represented all humans to earn life to be with God forever. The only human that was free to choose good and evil was Adam in an unstable state. Does Jesus Christ have this unstable state? No. Jesus Christ acts according to His sinless human nature and according to His divine nature that makes it impossible to sin. There may be a few times where Jesus Christ seems to sin. To view Jesus Christ's actions of clearing out the Jewish temple twice because of abuse and stealing as sinful shows a lack of insight into Christ's actions. God cannot sin. Jesus Christ did not sin because it is impossible for God to sin and tempt His creatures to sin. Please see James 1. Jesus Christ establishes a better and superior covenant because of His ability to be the better Adam. Adam foreshadows Christ. Christ shows what Adam needed to be. Humans need a perfect representative who:

- 1) Humans impute sin to this representative that becomes sin
- 2) He imputes life to these humans who impute sin to Him
- 3) Can keep and impute the perfect record of keeping God's commands
- 4) Can take God's justice on Himself to appease it to apply it to humans
- 5) Can forgive humans through atoning for sin
- 6) Has the cleansing ability and accomplishes the cleansing task for humans

Please see Matthew 5:17 with Luke 24:44, Matthew 20:26-28, John 1:29 with 1 John 2:1-2 and John 10:10-30 and John 11:51-52 and Ephesians 5:24-25, Romans 3:21-31, Romans 5:9-11 with 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 4:4-5, Ephesians 1:7-10 with Acts 2:37-40, Ephesians 5:1-2, Colossians 2:13-14, Titus 3:4-7, Hebrews 9:11-15, and 1 John 1:6-9.

Jesus Christ is the only one who fulfills these requirements and more to be the better Adam that leads humans to salvation. This is an act of mercy from God. Why? God would be just to leave all humans in Adam's curse of sin because God has no obligation to act. There is nothing forcing God to save humans. God will save humans only out of

His mercy. Please read Romans 9. Does any criminal have the right to complain about their just sentence? No. Can humans say their sentence of guilty is unfair to God when they are guilty? No. Humans are not good by God's standard to be near Him. Deep rebellion in the soul is all that humans want and choose freely. Sin manifests itself in thought, action, and speech. Jesus Christ is the light who conquers sin for many and leaves the rest to follow what they want. Christians receive God's mercy.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world because He conquered sin. Is there another covenant humans can be a part of? Yes. It is called the Covenant of Grace. Christ's cross makes this possible. Many humans give sin to Christ to pay for with all consequences to appease God's justice on the cross. Christ's cross saves humans from God's justice that sin brings about. God's justice puts non-believing humans in Hell without end. This is a place of great ruin where none cease to exist. To meet eternal destruction is to be in a poor and tormented state that will not end. The blood of Jesus dripping on the cross brings many humans near to God. Why? Christ is the ultimate sacrifice to pay the debt of sin that humans need because no human or force can accomplish salvation. Rejoice because of God's mercy. Please see Romans 5:9 with Romans 1:18-19, Ephesians 2:13, and 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.

The Covenant of Grace is Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit imputing perfection. This imputing gives many humans a clean record to welcome many into God's kingdom. How? Jesus Christ imputing His merit to many humans. Do any humans deserve or earn mercy from God through rituals like eating bread and drinking wine for grace, praying enough, reading the Bible enough, or going to church enough to receive God's mercy? No. God's mercy is God freely acting out of His perfect and infinite nature. What does this mean? Subsistence means to be real and have substance. God is one being with three divine and eternal subsistence's. God is the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. All three subsistence's have life, existence, and are self-sustaining in the being of God. There is no separation, parts, or division in God. God is one in all senses, simple without complexity, and cannot change. The attributes of God are what He is that He will act on in the world. God's attributes are the singular being of God because God is one without parts. There is no division between what God is and what He does. God is self-existent with no beginning and self-sustaining without end. He needs nothing from what He created. Human language struggles to define what God reveals about Himself through the Bible alone. The rest of this book will discuss the Triune God. Please see Deuteronomy 6:4 with Mark 12:29, Isaiah 44:6, Malachi 3:6 with Hebrews 13:8, John 1, John 10:30-33, Acts 5:4-5, and 1 Corinthians 8:5-6. This covenant relies on the Triune God. One being of God with three divine subsistence's that act together with one will. The one will of God will establish the Covenant of Grace that starts back with Adam to

Christ's return. Why? God has been merciful to some humans in sin. Please see Romans 8-10 and Hebrews 9:15.

Christians are Jews and non-Jews in Jesus Christ. Both groups are together as one receiving God's mercy in salvation because God has chosen to be merciful. There is no separation or differences between Jew and non-Jew because all are in sin requiring Christ. Jews do not have a special status or an unique insight that non-Jews do not have. Please see Romans 1-3, Galatians 3:28-29, and Colossians 3:8-11. All are the same in the context of salvation where God listens, speaks to His people, and helps His people. God is merciful to forgive the debt of sin, appease His own justice, and provide purity to these humans. Will Christians still have struggles and concerns in life? Yes. Humans who have salvation in Christ Jesus will have God listen to and help them. Why? Christians are God's holy people. God is the perfect Father who cares and knows how to provide for the good of His holy people. How? God will help His people in various ways because He is able to do so. The next chapter will discuss this. Christians take comfort that God knows your needs and listens to your prayers because of the Covenant of Grace. God will be there. Amen!

### **Questions:**

- 1) Do you affirm Adam's imputed sin as described in Romans 5?
- 2) Do you affirm Jesus Christ imputes mercy to some humans?
- 3) Do you know in your mind that God is always near through the Covenant of Grace?
- 4) Do you know God will help with struggles and concerns in life?
- 5) Do you praise God with your thoughts, actions, and speech because of His mercy?