

# Taking Responsibility

Which one represents you? It really is a decision we have to make. Choose wisely. We know what we get with Adam - sin that leads to death. No mercy. No hope. No salvation. Yes, we do get to make a choice, and that's what I'd prefer to use our time emphasizing. Romans is the book Calvinists live in, and this chapter, in particular, is the beginning point. Why do you sin? Who's accountable? This is a big question. James said we shouldn't blame God. We're tempted and lured by our own desires. Is that because we're born evil? Is that why Eve sinned? If we're born that way . . . who's really to blame? It's upsetting that such a beautiful passage has been used to justify such an ugly doctrine. So, let's look at the text before us, honor the context and harmonize God's word.

The first portion of today's text directs the saints in Rome toward their peace in God because of their justification by faith in Christ. They were to rejoice in this. They were also to rejoice in suffering because of what it produces in their lives. Yes, Jesus also suffered on their behalf, even when the world was considered weak, ungodly, sinners, and enemies. Yes, even more than that, they were to rejoice because of their reconciliation. It is with this in mind that we come to today's text.

## **Romans 5:12-21:**

- Why did death spread to all men in vs. 12?
- What sin are others guilty of, according to Paul?
- Vs. 13-17 are a sidebar. Read vs.12, then 18.
- Are all people automatically saved? Why not?
- Know the difference between exegesis and eisegesis.
- Yes, this portion is dense, but what's it about?

## **Harmonizing:**

- Romans 3:10-12 Turned aside from what? Become worthless?
- Romans 7:9 - I once was alive apart from the law?
- Romans 9:11 - Had done nothing good or bad?
- Isaiah 7:14-16 - Before He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good?
- John 3:5 - Unless one is born again?
- Deut. 24:16; 2 Chron. 25:4; Ezekiel 18 - He doesn't punish sons for their father's sins?

## **Application:**

- Genesis 3:1-7 with James 1:13-15 - Do you take responsibility?
  - 1 John 3:4 Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.
- Genesis 4:1-7 - How do you view God?
- Acts 2:40 - God isn't toying with you. It's a genuine invitation.