

I have a particular part of my personality that when I try something I don't want to admit defeat or quit. It's not about losing, it's not limited to sports. Especially in computer technical issues and problems, I don't like it when I can't figure something out. When a technical issue arises I have to catch myself because minutes can turn to hours quickly. Hours can go by tinkering and trying to understand how everything is working, getting mighty frustrated if it's not working, but refusing to quit. Of course after investing hours then I tell myself I can't quit because it would all be wasted time and effort.

Recently one of those technical issues came up. I had weak wireless internet signal. You probably know the feeling. I started thinking of possible solutions and figured I could turn an old router into an access point router. The closer router would boost my speed. I knew it was possible, although not quite sure how. That's what Google and the internet are for. It wasn't too long before I was caught up in trying to understand how it worked, trying to get the steps just right to set it up, and getting frustrated when it didn't work. Time ran out and I had to put the project on hold, not quit, just a frustrated hold.

In the early moments after Adam and Eve had been created by God everything was perfect. But a great tragedy happened. Worse than having a weak wireless internet signal Adam reversed the perfection. **"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."** Two tragedies in one incomplete sentence. The first was the very well-known action of Adam. Even though Eve took the piece of fruit and ate it first, Adam had the command from God first. He was there, he should've stopped her. When he didn't, God put the responsibility for bringing sin into the world on him. Adam reversed everything God had wanted for his world. God wanted perfection to remain. He wanted Adam and Eve to exist with him in perfect happiness and joy forever. But Adam reversed it all. And if that wasn't enough the second great tragedy was death piggybacking on sin. The natural consequence of sin, when Adam brought in sin along came death.

God created Adam and Eve for life, but Adam irrationally chose death. In that moment he served as representative of the entire human race. In Adam was every person who would ever live on this planet. Adam's sin was pre-pinned on the account of everyone who would come after him before they were even born. Sin and death are natural for everyone. That's original sin. There whether anyone wants it or not. Guilt whether anyone wants it or not. Original sin makes it impossible for anyone to start out right with God. The sinfulness people inherit from their parents can be traced back to the reversal Adam brought into God's perfect world.

We were there in Adam. Sadly Adam involved you and me, brought sin and death to us. From our conception years ago we've been going opposite of God in sin. The far reaching consequences of Adam's reversal of God's perfection reach to us today. But how fair is that? We get punished for Adam's sins? We weren't there. We didn't have a chance to say no, or yell to Adam to stop. We didn't have a chance. But fairness isn't the question. Since Adam's sin, every person including you and me, have been unable not to sin. Our whole lives we have no ability to avoid sin on our own. Where's the proof? Things are still reversed. We readily admit we aren't perfect. That's a product of original sin. On top of that we show our sinful selves over and over. The sinful thoughts we think no one knows but us. The sinful words we say sometimes under our breath, sometimes not. And the sinful actions others feel and get hurt by. Oh yes, we show the reversal of the perfection still exists.

If someone steals a car, when they're caught the judge looks up the appropriate law that's been broken and the associated penalty and that's what the charge is based on. There's a specific law called upon as proof the law was broken. God anticipates someone trying to use the excuse that we haven't sinned like Adam. There was a time between Adam and Moses when specific written laws didn't exist. Maybe people weren't being held accountable during that time for their sins. Maybe they weren't sinful. Maybe that would help us. **"For before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. 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."** Nevertheless. Yes there was no specific laws, nevertheless people still died. Things haven't changed. Sin isn't getting better. We may not sin the same way Adam did, but remember the second great tragedy Adam brought. Adam reversed God's perfection and brought sin, evil, and death. If people die its proof they're still sinful. Since people still die, since you and I will die, its proof you and I have original sin. The sin of Adam convicts us. Our sinful thoughts, words, and actions condemn us. We continue to live out the reversal of God's perfection.

Adam's reversal had universal consequences in a very negative way. Yet the first Adam **"was a pattern of the one to come."** That one would be similar but different from Adam. Parallel but in contrast. The many died because of the sin of the first Adam. The coming of the second Adam would have universal consequences, to a much higher degree in a positive way. **"But the gift is not like the trespass."** The well-known action of falling into sin by the first Adam reached far. The well-known action of the second Adam reached even farther and went further.

The gift showed God's graciousness. The many who died from the well-known sin of the first Adam now are the same many who have been given and shown grace in the second Adam, Christ Jesus. **"Since 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!"** Adam sinned, God responded in Christ. God only shows his grace in Christ. Only in Christ can the very same many be sinful yet receive the gift of God's grace in abundance. What we receive in Christ is so much more than we lost in Adam. God's grace is infinitely better and greater for good than Adam's sin was for evil. Adam reversed God's perfection and in Christ Jesus things are reversed back. The second Adam reverses the first Adam.

It's amazing there is any reversal at all. God didn't owe the world a Savior, a second Adam who would set things straight with God again. **"But the gift is not like the trespass."** So much better is the gift of God's grace. It goes beyond the well-known sin of Adam and provides forgiveness for all sins. We live in the forgiveness provided by the reversal of Christ Jesus. We have new life because of the new life provided by the second Adam. You and I can rejoice because we are part of that huge group of people who have received the gift of Jesus Christ and the grace of God. We have within us the nature of Adam who reversed God's perfection. Now because of Jesus things are reversed back. We are once again viewed as perfect before God. Jesus promises eternal life in heaven. Jesus brings us the ability to live for God and demonstrate our faith to others. Jesus reverses all the evil of Adam. The second Adam reverses the first Adam.

A couple weeks after my frustrated hold I came back. I couldn't admit defeat or quit. This wasn't about having a new access point router. This was about solving a technical issue that I should be able to figure out. Looking at different websites I realized I just needed to reverse my approach. Success. Today the Apostle Paul didn't even mention the word of Romans, but the concept was there throughout. Adam reversed God's perfection and brought sin and death into the world. Reversal of what God wanted applies to all people including you and me. But Christ Jesus reversed things back. Reversal. The second Adam reversed the first Adam. The outcome of our lives is reversed. Our sins are reversed. Our punishment is reversed. And Christ reversed where we will spend eternity, now forever with him in heaven.