

Let's take our Bibles and turn to Paul's letter to the saints in Rome, Romans chapter 5 and v.20, and we're going to read through to verse 6 of chapter 6. So it's **Romans 5:20-6:6**.

The Lord Jesus was crucified on Calvary's cross around 1987 years ago. Considering that He was 33 + years old when it happened and He was born according to our calendar on year zero, the calendar starts for us at 0, and it is now the year 2020, that would put His death at the age of 33, 1987 years ago. So, when He was crucified, Israel and the entire part of the known world was under the Roman Empire with Caesar Tiberius as Emperor or President. I googled all this historical info.

If the Jews had had their way, Tiberius would have never ruled over them, but it was what it was, and Tiberius was the President of Israel much to its chagrin. But it was all designed by God to be what it was for the express purpose of getting Jesus to be born and crucified on Calvary's cross. And, by the way, you are here this morning because God at some point in your history drew you to His Son and through the ministry and Person of the Holy Spirit gave you life and light and faith.

<sup>44</sup> *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.*

<sup>45</sup> *"It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me. (Jn. 6:44-45 NAU) We are here in this place this morning and we are in Christ, if it's true that you are in Christ, solely because God Himself taught us about Jesus and that's part of the story of how He drew us to His Son.*

<sup>22</sup> *"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--*

<sup>23</sup> *this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.*

<sup>24</sup> *"But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. (Acts 2:22-24)*

**Now our text:**

<sup>20</sup> *The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*

<sup>21</sup> *so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Romans 6:1** *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?*

<sup>2</sup> *May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?*

<sup>3</sup> *Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?*

<sup>4</sup> *Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

<sup>5</sup> *For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,*

<sup>6</sup> *knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;*

*(Rom. 6:1-6 NAU)*

**First think about this, “God flipped the law and sin.”**

I believe we have one or two folks in our congregation who have bought houses for the purpose of “flipping them.” They have invested their money in what are known as “fixer-uppers” and then sold them for a profit. If you can do it, I understand it’s a good way to make some money.

That’s what this verse is telling us God did with His law and our sin. God bought us out of the marketplace of sin with the blood of His Son and flipped us, He fixed us up. \*Pics of flipped houses. \*My pic.

<sup>20</sup> *The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, That’s the flip.*

**We were the fixer-uppers. God flipped the law and sin by means of His grace, His Son, the Spirit, and His blood. He purchased us by His own blood, fixed us up, and flipped us with the promise that He would never leave us nor abandon us.**

**Second, notice this, <sup>20</sup> The Law came in so that the transgression would increase.**

What are the three rules Biblical interpretation? Context, context, context. Context can explain what nothing else can.

You and I have witnessed friends and family and co-workers and acquaintances doing some pretty stupid stuff just like they have witnessed us doing some pretty stupid stuff and we all wonder “why in the world did they do that?” And the puzzle can only be solved by understanding the context of their lives. Why was Johnny so prone to losing his temper when he was younger and immature? It’s because he learned it from his father. Temper tantrums are contagious. <sup>24</sup> *Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man,* <sup>25</sup> *Or you will learn his ways And find a snare for yourself.* (**Prov. 22:24-25 NAU**) To this day I avoid people who are given to anger, people who fly off the handle at the least provocation. And I thank God Almighty that I’m no longer that man given to anger, temper tantrums.

Why do some people seem doomed to a life of thievery? Check their context and you’ll find out why. They grew up around people who were thieves.

Now people who lose their tempers are responsible for controlling their tempers just like thieves who come from a family background that encourages such behavior are responsible for their actions. But that’s their life context. The same goes for kids like my best friend in high school who was an alcohol by the time he was 13 and whose dad was a stone-cold alcoholic. Context can explain almost every question we have about why people do what they do. Unresolved childhood issues.

And this is where context is taking us.

Do you see the two words “*the transgression?*” Of course you do. But what do those two words refer to? Well, context tells us precisely what they refer to. Go up to v.15 of this chapter, Rom. 5:15, and we will see it recurring over and over again leading up to v.20. The rule of Biblical interpretation comes into play here. What do those words mean in v.20, the same thing they mean in verses 15 and 16 and 17 and 18 and in v.19 where they refer to “the one man’s disobedience.”

<sup>15</sup> *But the free gift is not like **the transgression**. What transgression? For if by **the transgression of the one** Who is the one? the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.*

<sup>16</sup> *The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from **one transgression** resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.*

<sup>17</sup> *For if by **the transgression of the one**, which one? death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

<sup>18</sup> *So then as through **one transgression** What one transgression? there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.*

<sup>19</sup> *For as through **the one man's disobedience** that refers to that one transgression the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*

<sup>20</sup> *The Law came in so that **the transgression** would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,*

<sup>21</sup> *so that, **as sin** And there it is again, the sin refers back to the one transgression in the Garden reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*(Rom. 5:15-21 NAU)*

So, when Paul speaks of “the transgression” in those several verses, what is he referring to? The one transgression of the one man, Adam.

And this is how it works out as Paul lays it out for us to rejoice in: One disobedient man, one obedient man.

One sinner, one Righteous.

One brought sin and death to the world; the other brought righteousness and life to the world.

As sin increased, grace greater than all our sins superabounded toward us.

And that Righteous and Obedient Man nailed the law and our sins and that **transgression** and every transgression since to the cross when He was nailed to the cross. <sup>13</sup> *When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,*

<sup>14</sup> *having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (Col. 2:13-14 NAU)*

### **I will close with this, The just penalty**

Now, turn to the book of Hebrews and chapter two, **Hebrews 2:1** *For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.*

<sup>2</sup> *For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,*

<sup>3</sup> *how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? (Heb. 2:1-3 NAU)*

<sup>NAU</sup> **Hebrews 2:2** *For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, Every transgression since that original transgression back in the Garden has received a just and satisfactory penalty. And that off the back and head and hands and feet and the life and death of the only*

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innocent Man who ever lived or will ever live. The just penalty paid for our sins was the Perfect Sacrifice by the Sinless and Spotless Lamb of God.

“He knew us, and yet He loved us. He whose glory makes the heavens shine. So unworthy, of such mercy, when He was on the cross, we were on His mind. Oh yes, when He was on the cross, we were on His mindddddddddddddd.”