

"THE ABUNDANT REIGN OF GRACE"

ROMANS 5:20-21

I. SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE BETWEEN ADAM AND CHRIST, THE LAW ENTERED AS A SIGNIFICANT PLAYER IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN (5:20a)

A. The Law Came In "Alongside" The State Of Affairs Man Was Left In Because Of Adam's Sin

1. It Is Supplementary Not Primary
2. It Does Not Present A Third Alternative To Adam Or Christ

B. The Law Came In "Alongside" In Order To Magnify The Severity Of Adam's Sin

1. It Demonstrates That All Men Are Prone To Follow In The Same Path As Adam As They Do The Very Thing That Is Forbidden
2. It Demonstrates That What Arouses The Sin Nature Is In Reality The Good Law Of God

II. IN SPITE OF MAN'S SINFUL ABUSE OF GOD'S GOOD LAW, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR GOD'S GRACE TO ENTER IN AND OVERWHELM THE ABUSE (5:20b)

A. Notice The Timing Of God's Grace

B. Notice The Proportion Of God's Grace

III. NOW THIS SUPER-ABOUNDING COUNTERACTION IS DESIGNED TO BE IN CONTROL (5:21)

A. In Order For Something To Reign, Something Else That Was Previously Reigning Must Be Displaced

1. Co-Regency In This Matter Is An Affront To God
2. Grace Is An Able Teacher

B. This Is Only Possible Because Of The Primary Benefit That Accompanies Identification With The Headship Of Christ.