

Current Positional Truth: Everlasting Life & Eternal Life Are Not the Same; Fruit Alters Adam's DNA; the Blessing of Universal Condemnation; Point of Contact Changes from Love to Justice; Condemnation Must Precede Justification; the Greater Effort Is Salvation through Christ; Lesser Effort Is Conveying Rewards

- (20) Everlasting life is not to be regarded as a synonym for eternal life as these definitions confirm:

Everlasting: lasting or enduring through all time; continuing for a long time or indefinitely.¹ Everlasting: Indefinitely durable, that will "never" wear out. For all future time, in perpetuity.²

- (21) Remember that Adam and Ishah were each created with perfect life. Perfection indicates the absence of fault or defect. Death is the secession of physical life which Genesis 2:17 indicates was not a concern for the original couple as long as they avoided eating the forbidden fruit.
- (22) Although the life the two enjoyed was restricted to planet earth it was designed to endure through "all time," "indefinitely," "for all future time," "in perpetuity."
- (23) Therefore, had Adam and Ishah never sinned their perfect life in perfect bodies in perfect environment would "last and endure through all time," i.e., "everlasting."
- (24) The key word in these definitions is "time." Everlasting life is not eternal life. It could be lost by a volitional decision to violate the divine mandate to abstain from consuming the forbidden fruit.
- (25) Doing so would result in the loss of everlasting life. The decision to eat and the act of eating the fruit combined to create a mutation in Adam's DNA. The decision to eat was the sin while the eating of the fruit caused the mutation.
- (26) The ways in which mutations occur in one's DNA is provided by this item from the Web site of Genetic Health:

How Do Mutations Occur? Everyone acquires some changes to their DNA during the course of their lives. These changes occur in a number of ways. Sometimes there are simple copying errors that are introduced when DNA replicates itself. (Every time a cell divides, all of its DNA is duplicated so that each of the two resulting cells have (*sic*) a full set of DNA.) Other changes are introduced as a result of DNA damage through environmental agents including sunlight, cigarette smoke, and radiation. Our cells have built in mechanisms that catch and repair most of the changes that occur during DNA replication or from environmental damage. As we age, however, our DNA repair does not work as effectively and we accumulate changes in our DNA.

¹ *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., s.v.: "everlasting."

² *Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v.: "everlasting."

Some of these changes occur in cells of the body—such as in skin cells as a result of sun exposure—but are not passed on to children. But other errors can occur in the DNA of cells that produce the eggs and sperm. These are called germline mutations and can be passed from their parents, every cell in their body will have this error in their DNA. Germline mutations are what cause diseases to run in families, and are responsible for the kind of hereditary diseases covered by Genetic Health.³

- (27) The decision to eat the fruit was the original sin and resulted in spiritual death. The physical consumption and gestation of the fruit resulted in a mutation within Adam's DNA.
- (28) This mutation was of the germline variety that affected the gametes of egg and sperm and passed down to the entire human race by procreation.
- (29) It was the lapse of Adam that started this entire process; the resultant presence of the sin nature in man's DNA can never be expunged.
- (30) The only cure is for the soul to discard the human body through physical death and have it ultimately replaced by the resurrection body.
- (31) Thus we return to the protasis of Romans 5:17:

Romans 5:17a - For if by the transgression of one man [Adam's original sin] death [spiritual] ruled [βασιλεύω (*basileuō*)] through one man [Adam, and it did] ...

- (1) The word "ruled" is the aorist active indicative of the verb βασιλεύω (*basileuō*) and it means rulership and in context it refers to the dictatorship of the sinful nature.
- (2) The culminative aorist views the action of the verb in its entirety but regards it from the viewpoint of existing results. The verb signifies effort or process and denotes the attainment of the end of such effort or process.
- (3) The existing result of Adam's spiritual death is its rulership over every individual at physical birth. The effort or process is the imputation of Adam's original sin and resultant condemnation.
- (4) The active voice indicates that spiritual death produces the action of rulership over a person's life by the sinful nature.
- (5) The indicative mood is declarative for the reality of the first-class condition.
- (6) The first cause of this condition is brought out next by the preposition διὰ (*dia*) plus the genitive of agency of the numeral adjective εἰς (*heis*) translated "through the agency of the one," namely Adam.

³ Amanda Ewart Toland, "DNA Mutations," genetichealth.com, January 3, 2001.
http://www.genetichealth.com/g101_changes_in_dna.shtml.

- (7) The blessings of grace are revealed in this concept. Adam's lapse resulted in the universal condemnation of the human race at physical birth by the real imputation of spiritual death through Adam's original sin.
- (8) In Eden, prior to the lapse, our original parents' point of contact with the integrity of God was love.
- (9) The love of God must be directed toward perfection which was the status quo of Adam and Ishah prior to the lapse.
- (10) When Adam's lapse occurred, the love of God was withdrawn as Adam's point of contact and replaced by the justice of God.
- (11) Justice condemned the human race which is a necessary circumstance before a solution to sin can be considered.
- (12) PRINCIPLE: Condemnation must precede justification.
- (13) Under condemnation, spiritual death rules the human race. Lucifer is the ruler of this world while spiritual death rules everyone at physical birth.
- (14) The rulership of spiritual death is the necessary verdict of the justice of God before a solution can be presented.
- (15) Jesus Christ is the solution which God presents in grace to anyone who believes in His person and work.
- (16) Old Testament believers look forward to the Lord's sacrifice by means of prophecy while believer's in the Church Age look back retrospectively to the cross by means of New Testament authentication.
- (17) Therefore, the greatest effort on the part of the integrity of God was to formulate a solution to our sin problem.
- (18) The first step was to condemn us by the imputation of Adam's original sin which required a divine solution for the resultant spiritual death, that solution being Jesus Christ.
- (19) If God can do the greater thing in providing salvation, then He can do the less by conveying rewards to those believes who advance in His plan.
- (20) This is where a fortiori logic occurs in verse 17. It is introduced by the adjective **πολύς (polus)** plus the adverb **μᾶλλον (mallon)** translated "much more," indicating that the greater has already been accomplished.
- (21) This introduces the apodosis which suffers from a mistranslation in all four major English translations. Here is how each reads:
- (22) The King James Version (KJV):
Romans 5:17 - For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall **reign in life** by one, Jesus Christ.
- (23) The New International Version (NIV):

Romans 5:17 - For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness **reign in life** through one man, Jesus Christ.

(24) The New American Standard Bible (NASB):

Romans 5:17 - For if by the transgression of the 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.

(25) The New English Translation (NET):

Romans 5:17 - For if, by the transgression of the one man, death reigned through the one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness **reign in life** through the one, Jesus Christ! (NET)

(26) In each of these translations the phrase "in life" is placed with the verb βασιλεύω (*basileuō*): "shall reign," but in the Greek it goes with the verb λαμβάνω (*lambanō*): "to receive."

(27) Assigning the right verb to the prepositional phrase *in life* is critical to the interpretation of this verse. Mature believers are to "receive in life," not "reign in life." First let's note the corrected translation and then exegete the verse from the Greek.

Romans 5:17 - For if by the transgression of one, spiritual death ruled through that one, and it did, much more they who receive in life [λαμβάνω (*lambanō*) plus ἐν ζωῇ (*en zōē*)] this surplus from grace and the gift of righteousness, much more they shall rule through the One, Jesus Christ. (CET)