

old, the middle-aged, and the young. Will you be so kind as to account for this? Did the good God make the world this way? Did God make us to sin? Did God make us to die?

Paul begins at the beginning, and explains the entrance of sin, that began in a world before ours. He does not give you the origin of sin in the universe, but he gives you the entrance of it into this planet, and he says it was by one man that sin came into the world, and by one sin that death entered into the world. You doubt that? "By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin." How else did it get in, so far as Adam is concerned? So far as Adam is concerned, sin entered through him. But now, as for the rest of you. "And so death passed *through*—unto all men, upon this account, that all sinned." Do you think death comes to me because I sin to-day? Do you think that our personal transgressions are the cause of our going to the tomb? Infants die: they have not personally transgressed. Believers are exempt from law, and where there is no law, there is no transgression, and yet they die. Account for it. They sin in him who was the head of the race, who was the representative of the race. God could have made an individual covenant with you, even with one after another through all the millions of men, and made each stand where Adam stood, and treated each where he stood, and the result would have been the same. Adam was made holy, and you could not have done any better. It was kind, therefore, for God to deal with the human family, not as with independent corn stalks each one standing on its own root, or as angels who could not be federally united, because of a lack of vital descent from a common root: but he dealt with you as the branches of a tree with one root, and if the root is vitiated, the top-most twig will be. If our first and falling father gives us a nature corrupt, corrupt we shall be; and the guilt and the corruption will come together.

Wild and unwholesome the root, so must the branches be. How can we hope for living fruit from such a deadly tree?

That is what your father Adam gave you. That is what his free-will gave you. Death, sin, and damnation eternal, you get from the free-will of mortal man. It passed *through* from him to you, Paul tells you. There is a problem here he desires you to understand, that is, about infants. How do you account for infants being consigned to the tomb? Death reigned from Adam to Moses. The law was given to Moses you know, and yet where there is no law there is no transgression. Until Moses, there was no positive outward legislation from the time of Adam, and yet men died, and children died who didn't sin after the similitude of Adam's transgression. Will you tell me where the law is that imputed sin to them when the law did not enter until Moses' time? Adam stood in covenant not merely for himself but for his posterity by God's constitution; they all fell in him, because they sinned, was in him.