

**Current Positional Truth: Review: Rom 5:17: Converting Condemnation to Justification; Adam & Ishah's Relationship with God: before & after the Lapse; Exegetical Problem with *Lambano* (to receive) & *Basileuo* (to rule); *Zoe* compared with *Bios*, v. 17**

**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)

- (28) To work this out we follow Paul's logic. First of all the protasis reminds us that when we were born we were physically alive but spiritually dead due to the original sin and its imputation to our genetically formed sinful nature.
- (29) This is followed by the a-fortiori rationale which indicates "with stronger reason." The greater effort on God's part is to condemn Adam and the human race.
- (30) This sets up the structure whereby justice can respond to a person's faith in Christ by justifying him before the Supreme Court of Heaven. In logic, this took a greater effort on God's part to condemn the entire human race than it is for Him to bless believers who advance to spiritual maturity.
- (31) Two a-fortiori rationales in this verse make up the apodosis. The first states that it took less effort for God to bless us in time.
- (32) This is introduced by the phrase, "they who receive in life." The verb *receive* is the present active participle of *lambanō* followed by the prepositional phrase ἐν ζωῇ (*en zōē*): in life.
- (33) There are two words for life in Scripture that at times are used synonymously, however, there is a technical difference between them.
- (34) *Zōē* refers to the life of the believer which functions within the environment of divine provision whereas βίος (*bios*) refers to one's manner of life related to moral conduct.
- (35) The best the unbeliever or carnal believer can do is to strive to lead a moral, or *bios*, life under the concept of human good. The advancing believer strives to function within the *zōē* of Christ which was demonstrated by Him in the prototype divine dynasphere.
- (36) Thus *bios* emphasizes human life while *zōē* stresses the spiritual life.
- (37) In our context, *zōē* refers to the believer's advance to experiential sanctification and the imputation escrow blessings in time.