

## Dial Daily Bread: "Made" or "Constituted" in Romans 5?

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Dear Friends of "Dial Daily Bread,"

What does Paul's use of the word "constituted" mean in *Young's Literal Translation* of Romans 5:15-19, instead of the word "made" in the *King James Version*?

Here's what Young renders Paul as saying: "So, then, as through one offense to all men it is to condemnation, so also through one declaration of 'Righteous' it is to all men to justification of life; for as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam], the many [all men] were *constituted* sinners: so also through the obedience of the One [Christ], shall the many [the same all men] be *constituted* righteous" (vss. 18, 19, *Young's Literal*).

The sin of Adam did not *make* "all men" to be actual sinners--that would be "original sin." Adam's fatherhood has not forced anyone to sin! (It could be that the KJV rendering as "made" has led some to think the Bible does teach original sin; but *Young's Literal* makes clear that we still have freedom of choice. Thank God!)

But it is true that "all have sinned" (Rom. 3:23), except Christ. But He took upon Himself the DNA descent from Adam, yet He proves that inheriting a sinful nature does not force one necessarily to be a sinner in character. Christ was tempted like as we are tempted, but He said "No!" to every temptation (Heb. 4:15; Titus 2:11, 12, *New International Version*). Adam's sin *constituted* "all men" under the legal condemnation of sin. Jesus "took" it upon Himself, so He could die.

Likewise, according to *Young's Literal*, the cross of Christ did not *make* the same "all men" to be experientially "righteous." It *constituted* them "righteous" in a legal sense so the Father could send His rain on the just and the unjust alike--so He could treat every person as though he had not sinned. Some call this a "second probation." But God means what He says: no one can keep you out of heaven, except your own perverse choice.

--Robert J. Wieland

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