

The Power of the Cross

Today we will learn some powerful truths about the crucifixion and it's application to our lives.

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Our text is a statement that concisely and powerfully captures the reason for, and the depth of, - the transforming power of the Cross.

This is the life-changing message of the Cross!

Jesus had no sin of his own

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Why is this important?

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

Sin entered the human race when Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

They became conscious of their disobedience and were cut off from God (Sin consciousness)

We call this ‘original sin’

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The penalty (consequences) of sin is death

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Justice had to be served to release us from the penalty of sin

Justice demanded that only a **sinless** person could pay the penalty of the **sinful**

Within humanity there were no sinless people – all have sinned

John 1:14 The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Philippians 2:6-7 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

This is the incarnation - God among us in human form – Jesus!

Jesus Christ was without sin – a perfect sacrifice (offering) for the sin of humanity!

God made Jesus to be sin for us

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

God so loved us he provided a way to redeem us back to himself

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

God provided a sinless person to pay the penalty for the sinful

Romans 3:25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice,

Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

On the cross Jesus became sin with our sin. This is why Jesus cried out in soul wrenching agony:

Matthew 27:46 About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

The absolute agony of soul Jesus experienced was because He had become sin with our sin and could no longer have fellowship with His Father!

The shedding of sinless blood satisfied the demands of God's justice!

Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

So that in him we might become (be made) the righteousness of God

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

‘So that,’ we might be restored to right standing with God, which was lost due to ‘original sin’

What is righteousness or ‘right standing with God’?

It is: ‘The ability, right & privilege to stand in the immediate presence of a Pure, Holy & Righteous God without any sense of guilt, inferiority, sin-consciousness or condemnation’

Jesus took the penalty and paid the price for our sin

In death (on the cross) Jesus paid our debt

Romans 4:25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Jesus was raised to life on account of our acquittal.

Our guilt has been discharged and we have been given right standing with Almighty God

We are now free to accept Gods offer of acquittal – salvation!

***Romans 10:9** If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*