

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a


A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK



Madagascar | Phil & Vala Long

PRAY - When we return to Madagascar, we will begin a church plant from the first church that we helped to start in another part of town. This means we need to train up national Malagasy workers and leaders to take our place in the ministry. Several people have stepped up and they are excited to take the ministry from us. They are going to do a great job! Please pray for them as we make this transition.

PRAISE - One of the young men who was baptized started coming to church as a result of an English class that we taught

Exchanging Sin For Righteousness

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21). This verse has inspired a great deal of debate among theologians over the years. There is no doubt that the verse expresses a unique truth about Jesus: He became sin for us. While on the one hand the verse states the simple gospel truth that Jesus took upon Himself the sins of all who would ever believe in Him, it also makes a somewhat enigmatic statement. How exactly did God make Jesus to be sin for us?

Perhaps the best way to understand He became sin for us is to begin with what it does not mean. First, it does not mean that Jesus actually became sin itself. To posit such a theory denies all of Scripture, which clearly presents Jesus Christ as the One in whom there is no sin (1 John 3:5), who commits no sin (1 Peter 2:22), and who is holy, blameless, and pure (Mark 1:24; Acts 3:14; Revelation 3:7). For Jesus to “become” sin, even for a moment, would mean He ceased to be God. But Scripture presents Jesus as “the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). He was and is and always will be the Second Person of the Godhead (John 1:1).

Second, the idea that Jesus became sin for us does not mean that He became a sinner, not even for a moment. Some have said that Christ may be considered as the greatest of sinners, because all the sins of mankind (or at least of the elect) became His own sins. When Christ suffered in our place and died for us, He bore the punishment for our sins in His own body (1 Peter 2:24). But Jesus at no time became a sinner personally.

Third, it does not mean He was guilty of actual sin. No one is truly guilty who has not transgressed the law of God, which Jesus never did. If He were guilty, then He deserved to die, and His death could have no more merit than that of any other guilty person. Even the Pharisees who sent Jesus to Calvary knew He was guiltless: “And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed” (Acts 13:28).

The proper interpretation can only be found in the doctrine of imputation. This is confirmed by the second part of 2 Corinthians 5:21: “So that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” To impute something is to ascribe or attribute it to someone. On the cross, our sin was imputed to Christ. That is how Christ paid our sin debt to God. He had no sin in Himself, but our sin was imputed (attributed) to Him so, as He suffered, He took the just penalty that our sin deserves. At the same time, through faith, Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us. Now we can stand before God sinless, just as Jesus is sinless. We are not righteous in ourselves; rather, Christ’s righteousness is applied to us.

Source: gotquestions.org

KEY VERSE

II Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: II Corinthians 5:14-21; I Peter 2:22-24

Introduction

1. Besides faith in Christ (which is the ultimate exchange for us), what is the best exchange or trade that you have made? Why?
2. According to the article on the cover and today’s scripture readings, what does it mean to exchange our sin for God’s righteousness?

Tuesday: II Corinthians 5:14-16; Romans 5:6-8; I John 4:9

See The Love Of Christ

3. According to today’s readings what are some ways that God has demonstrated His love for us?
4. What are some other scriptures that express God’s love for us? How have you experienced His love?

Wednesday: II Corinthians 5:17; II Peter 1:3-4, 3:18

Experience The Transformation Of Christ

5. What does it mean that anyone in Christ is a new creation?
6. If you are in Christ, list ways in which you have experienced that you are a new creation.

Thursday: II Corinthians 5:18-20; Romans 5:9-11; Luke 10:16

Fulfill The Commission Of Christ

7. How does God reconcile people to Himself? How did it happen in your life?
8. What does it mean that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation? What does this ministry look like?
9. What do earthly ambassadors do? How is that a good analogy for what God has commissioned us to do in today’s readings?

Friday: II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 3:18; Romans 5:12-21

Receive The Substitution Of Christ

10. What does it mean that Jesus knew no sin? What does it mean that He was made to be sin for us?
11. How are we able to become the righteousness of God in Him?
12. What is the impact of this great exchange in your life? Please spend time thanking God for what He has done for us.