

“What God Did for Us” 2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

I. He made Him –

1. First, He, God the Father ...
2. Second, He (Him), God the Son, Jesus –

II. Who knew no sin –

1. Jesus knew all about sin. He is equal with His Father, the All-knowing God.

²² “Can anyone teach God knowledge, since He judges those on high? Job 21:22 (NKJV)

He knew sin as the destructive force it was and is –

⁴ Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward. ⁵ Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, And the whole heart faints. ⁶ From the sole of the foot even to the head, There is no soundness in it, But wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed or bound up, Or soothed with ointment. Isaiah 1:4–6 (NKJV)

- A. Israel His chosen people were a “sinful nation” the rest were not better! :4
- B. Laden with iniquity means WEIGHED DOWN as it is a burden too much for us to carry! :4
- C. Brood means as children they were born evil! :4
- D. Corrupters means they cause rot and rust. Moral rot that is! :4
- E. Forsaken the LORD means they have LEFT God! :4
- F. They’ve made a patient loving person angry – the Holy One of Israel, God - :4
- G. Turn away backward means sin has people going the WRONG WAY - :4
- H. :5-6 compare sin to a fatal disease!

2. He did not know sin experientially. He knew “temptation” but He never committed sin –

¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)

- A. Jesus never committed a sin of commission, He never murdered anyone, never committed adultery or stole from anyone ...
- B. Jesus never committed a sin of omission, meaning that He did EVERY LITTLE THING that was and is right to do –

¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin. James 4:17 (NKJV)

- C. The fact that we know sin experientially CAUSES US NOT TO KNOW or FEEL its horror or wrongness –

⁴ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, 1 Timothy 4:1–2 (NKJV)

3. **Knew no sin means He knew enough not to be connected with it –**

“I wouldn’t touch you with a thirty-nine-and-a-half foot pole.” Many preacher’s and Bible scholars say that Jesus’ agony in Gethsemane as He approached the cross, was not due to foreseen physical pain, but because morally / spiritually He was about to be “made sin” for us.

³⁸ Then He said to them, **“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. ... Matthew 26:38 (NKJV)**

³³... and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Mark 14:33 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Luke 22:44 (NKJV)

4. *Those who claim Jesus “sinned” are dreadfully wrong –*

A. *When Jesus was angry, He did not sin –*

¹⁴ And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. ¹⁵ When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. ¹⁶ And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!” ¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, **“Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.” John 2:14-17 (NKJV)**

B. *The same “zeal” Jesus had in cleansing the Temple He has in cleansing us –*

⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

III. *To be sin for us -*

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us,... 2 Corinthians 5:21

Everything about Jesus, the Second Person in the Godhead, is for us:

1. *As the Word made flesh, He is God’s Communication to us -*

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NKJV)

2. *As the Bread of Life, He is our Food, He is sustenance for us –*

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, **“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. John 6:35 (NKJV)**

3. *As the Light of the World, He is enlightenment, knowledge, truth, He makes things visible to us –*

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NKJV)**

4. *As our Good Shepherd He is our Guide and Protector –*

¹¹ **“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. John 10:11 (NKJV)**

*Yet, being made sin “for us” is different because He is taking the pain, the penalty of sin that we deserved –***53 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

² **For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is no beauty that we should desire Him.* ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.**
⁴ **Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, *He* was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:1–6 (NKJV)**

1. *He is the Arm of the LORD because He was and is strong enough to endure God’s righteous wrath, for us –And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?*
2. *To be sin for us meant He would be treated like a SINNER, like a sinner deserves, though He did not deserve it –*
 - A. *Who is “us” –*

Us who are SINNERS – ²³**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (NKJV) all includes:**

- *Your Pastor*
- *You*
- *Everyone, except for Jesus, who ever lived and died in this world ...*

B. *“us” is “us” who believe, who have faith in Jesus –*

²⁶**to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:26 (NKJV)**

- *God is “Just” He punishes sin!*
- *He is the Justifier because Jesus Who is the God-Man takes our punishment FOR US! We are “justified.”*

Which means God sees me just-as-if-I’d-never-sinned.

IV. *For what purpose does Jesus become sin for us? ... Answer: ... that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)*

1. *Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us –*

¹⁷For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) ¹⁸Therefore, as through one man’s offense *judgment came* to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act *the free gift came* to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. ²⁰Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, ²¹so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:17–21 (NKJV)

2. *Christ's righteousness ours in reality through the ministry of God's Word & Holy Spirit -*
⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. John 6:63 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17 (NKJV)

God's Word and God's Spirit change us, we are new creations -

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

A. *We have new eyes –*

... unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJV)

God's Spirit reveals things to us that an ungodly world cannot see –

But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJV)

B. *A new mind –* But we have the mind of Christ. (1 Corinthians 2:16 NKJV)

C. *New ears –*

"But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. ²⁷ "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. (John 10:26-27 NKJV)

D. *New Taste Buds –*

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! (Psalm 34:8 NKJV)

E. *A new mouth (song) –*

He has put a new song in my mouth-- Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD. (Psalm 40:3 NKJ)

F. *A new heart –*

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26 NKJV)

G. *New Feet –*

***Before* – "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways; (Romans 3:15-16 NKJV) *After* – How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Isaiah 52:7 NKJV)**

H. *An entirely new identity –*

Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. (1 John 3:1-2 NKJV)

...that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21