

## He Gave Us His Righteousness — 04/09/23

**TEXT- 2 Corinthians 5:21** *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

**INTRO-** This chapter was written to remind the Corinthians of the awful consequences of a continued hostility to God; to persuade them by the hope of heaven, and by the fear of hell. The verse explains the necessity of being righteous in order to attain heaven.

### What Is Imputed Righteousness?

What “imputed” means: According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, impute means to credit or ascribe something to a person. Righteousness means to be in the right standing, or right position, before God. When put together, imputed righteousness means His holiness has been credited to you. You can also think of it as an exchange or transfer.

λογίζομαι "metaphorically, "to put to a person's account,"

We were broken—sinful with no right standing before God because of our sin. However, Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life, and when you put your trust in him, he takes his righteousness and credits it to your account. You gain access to righteousness not because of anything you have done but because Christ applied it to your account. This imputed righteousness puts you in right standing before the Father.

### I. Jesus Christ was Pure, Sinless, and Holy

He was holy, harmless, undefiled.

**1 Peter 2:22** *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth*

**Hebrews 4:15** *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

**Hebrews 7:26-27** *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*

**1 Peter 2:22-23** *Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: 23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:*

**Galatians 4:4** *But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

**Matthew 1:18** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

**Matthew 1:23** *Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

### II. All men are Sinners, Guilty, and Unworthy

- **To be created in God's image means that we have been given a unique status, a divine dignity as human beings.** It means that God has set us apart and made us a very special creation in this world.
- **To be created in God's image means that God himself has determined how we ought to live.** It means that God has made us to live his way rather than our own way. In other words, God created human beings to represent himself through us on earth.

**Genesis 2:17** *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

**Ephesians 2:1-2** *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

**Romans 5:12** *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*

**Isaiah 53:6** *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;*

**Psalms 51:5** *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

**Man was created in intellectual and moral likeness of God. That was tainted by sin in the garden. Adam's sin was not imputed to man; however, mankind became destitute of the likeness of God. The image of God was marred by sin.**

### III. Our Sin Was Assigned To Him

If the declaration that he was made “sin” (ἁμαρτίαν) means that he was a sin-offering - an offering or a sacrifice for sin; God treated him as if he were a sinner.

**Galatians 3:13** *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

**“That we, in and by him, might be made righteous, by a righteousness imputed to us by God.”**

**1 Peter 2:24** *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

### How is this righteousness imputed to our account?

**James 2:23** *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

**Romans 5:1** *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*

There are many passages in the Old Testament where the word "sin" (*ἁμαρτία*) is used in the sense of sin-offering, or a sacrifice for sin.

**Leviticus 16:20-22** *And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: 21 And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: 22 And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.*

**It means that he made an atonement; that he died for sin; that his death was not merely that of a martyr; but that it was designed by substituted sufferings to make reconciliation between man and God.**

### IV. His Righteousness Is Imputed To Every Believer

**Romans 4:22-24** *And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;*

For God hath made him subject to suffering and death, the punishment and consequence of sin, as if he had been a sinner, though he were guilty of no sin."

In **Genesis 3**, God pronounces judgment against Adam, Eve, and the serpent for their sinful rebellion. To the serpent, God says, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (**verse 15**). This verse is known as the protoevangelium, or the "first gospel," because it introduces the theme of a Savior who will redeem humanity from the curse of sin. In **Genesis 3**, the Savior is called the "Seed" of the woman.

**Galatians 3:13** *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

**The Sinless made Sin and the Sinful made Righteous.**

**It pleased the Father to lay on him the deep sorrows which would be the proper expression of his sense of the evil of sin; that he endured so much suffering, as would answer the same great ends in maintaining the truth, and honor, and justice of God, as if the guilty had themselves endured the penalty of the Law.**

He was made sin; we are made righteousness; that is, he was treated as if he were a sinner, though he was perfectly holy and pure; we are treated as if we were righteous, though we are defiled and depraved.

**Isaiah 53:5-7** *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with 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 hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

**CONCL** - Ernest Gordon's Tells a story in Miracle On The River Kwai about Scottish soldiers, forced by their Japanese captors to labor on a jungle railroad. But one afternoon something happened.

"A shovel was missing. The officer in charge became enraged. He demanded that the missing shovel be produced, or else. When nobody in the squadron budged, the officer got his gun and threatened to kill them all on the spot . . . It was obvious the officer meant what he had said. Then, finally, one man stepped forward. The officer put away his gun, picked up a shovel, and beat the man to death. When it was over, the survivors picked up the bloody corpse and carried it with them to the second tool check. This time, no shovel was missing. Indeed, there had been a miscount at the first check point.