

Jesus the RIGHTEOUS

2 Corinthians 5:21

Our passage for today:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)— God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

PRAYER

Easter is all about JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS rescuing humanity from our sin.

Our culture doesn't like to hear about sin and righteousness—we like to think we are mostly good...

1980s HS Summer Camp—“Are you a good or bad person?”

I wasn't able to see my sin before—I didn't think it was sin since I hadn't really hurt anyone.

Nighttime Robbery...

Do I have the right to forgive YOUR attacker?

Who was the most offended party??

Forgiveness is complicated—we DO offend many people with our sin.

Simon Wiesenthal's ***The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness***

How can those who have not been murdered extend forgiveness on behalf of those who had?

After the war Wiesenthal continued to wrestle with this over and over...

He finally wrote a book about the limits of forgiveness where he says these words:

The crux of the matter is, of course, the question of forgiveness. Forgetting is something that time alone takes care of, but forgiveness is an act of volition, and only the sufferer is qualified to make the decision.

—Simon Wiesenthal, *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*, Schocken Publ., 1970, Pg 381.

There is one critical detail that Wiesenthal leaves out of his reasoning.

The book of 2 Samuel recounts the grim tale of young King David offending everyone around him.

David may have fooled a WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE, but God is no fool...

- I might be able to fool a lot of people when I sin, but I can't fool God...

God sends the prophet Nathan to confront David

The writer of Hebrews puts it best:

Hebrews 4:13 (NLT)— Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

- **David goes to the MOST OFFENDED PARTY to confess his sin.**

Psalm 51:4 (NLT)—Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight.

What makes sin so heinous and horrible is that it is first and most importantly an offense against God.

God has made it possible for us to be completely reconciled to God

The question we ask today is HOW?? How does God forgive us??

- How can an absolutely and utterly holy God who is infinitely righteous ever be reconciled to sinners?
- How can God be just and a justifier of sinners?

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)— God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

GOOD NEWS!! GOD HAS A PLAN!

There are 3 things this one verse reveals about this plan:

1. God initiates the plan.

Only God could make us right with Him—we are hopeless and helpless without Him.

2. God provides the sacrifice.

We needed a God-man to be the sinless sacrificial lamb—it's the only JUST substitute.

- And that's exactly what God designed...

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)— God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin

- God has provided a sacrifice to meet the demands of justice.
- History shows the sinlessness of Jesus.

3. God's plan is thorough

- There are no loose ends!!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)— God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Jesus has stood in MY PLACE of punishment

I now stand in JESUS' PLACE of righteousness and blessing before God

Listen to how Paul describes this in Ephesians chapter 1:

Ephesians 1:3-5 (NLT)— All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. 4 Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. 5 God decided in

advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Look at what that passage says God does for you:

- **Blessed you with every spiritual blessing**
- **You are united with Christ**
- **God has always loved you**
- **God has always desired for you to be righteous**
- **God has always desired for you to be with Him**
- **God has chosen to adopt you into His family**
- **God has brought you close to Him**
- **God is pleased to have you close to Him**

God loves you so much He sent JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS to die & pay the JUST PENALTY for your sin.

Jesus didn't just die for you—He was separated from the Father for you too. JESUS BECAME SIN—And God the Father turned His back to His own son Jesus.

- Jesus experienced the back of the Father's head one time so you will NEVER have to!!

From the cross—place of agony and shame—Jesus cried out “IT IS FINISHED!”

God's plan was thorough!

- This work of making you righteous before God is a FINISHED WORK!!
- It also doesn't matter what you've done!

This is something we must BELIEVE and RECEIVE

We will still put effort into our faith, but we are FREE from having to WORK to be right with God.

JESUS THE RIGHTEOUS said, “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

PRAYER...