

Vision 2026: Advance

Introduction: I'd like to invite your attention to the book of 2 Corinthians, chapter five.

2 Corinthians is in the New Testament, which is the second part of your Bible. The first part is called the Old Testament.

If you need to use the index, that's cool. If you are using an app, it's in the same place.

Now, if you are watching today & are checking out Christianity, or maybe returning to the faith of your childhood, or maybe you're not even sure there is a God, I'm glad you are here. You are welcome with your doubt, uncertainty or questions & we pray God will reveal the truth about Himself to you.

Now, lets look at the text together.

Grace that Restores

2 Corinthians 5:21

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

- A. Read as one sentence: **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** (BIBLE)
- a. **Paul's point:** Because Jesus died for all, all who are united with Him have died with Him. This speaks of our union with Christ—His death becomes the death of the old life for those who belong to Him.
- i. Jesus did not die “*instead of*” people, He died as our substitute – Therefore, those who belong to Christ through faith “*Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith*” have died to the old self & died to living for self.
 - ii. Paul teaches this in other letters *Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live... - As well as Romans 6:4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death...* & *Colossians 3:3 You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*
- b. So, those who now live for Him, Jesus is to live for the One who died & rose for them. It is not saying that every human being has automatically died & is saved, it is the “*effect*” of Christ’s representative death.

B. Vers 16 – “*merely from a human point of view.*”

- a. Paul no longer looks at Jesus with natural, fleshly eyes.

By the power of the Holy Spirit & the miracle of salvation, he now sees Him as He truly is—the *Son of the Living God*, the *Savior* who died & rose again, *Messiah* who constrains or compels us with His love & makes us new creations in Him.

- b. As a result, he teaches the foundation of the Gospel – *2 Corinthians 5:17* *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* ESV –

Scripture (*BIBLE*)

Today's focus: As we look at **2 Corinthians 5:21**, we will discover powerful truths that help us walk securely & confidently in Christ as His followers.

Let's read it again: *2 Corinthians 5:21* *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. NKJV*

Remember the application:

- I. **He Became Sin That We Might Become Righteousness**

A. He Who Knew no Sin

a. This may shock you, but Jesus was “*vulnerable to sin.*” Not “*possible*” to sin, but vulnerable to sin.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ESV

- i. **Matthew 16:21-23 & Mark 8:31-33** Record when Jesus told His disciples he must go to Jerusalem & suffer many things from the elders & chief priests & scribes, & be killed, & on the third day be raised – Peter says, not so – Jesus rebukes Peter saying “*Get behind Me, Satan!*” – Temptation to avoid the suffering of the cross & death.
- ii. In **John 16:15** – Jesus had fed the multitude & they seized Him & wanted to make Him king – a shortcut to earthly power & glory without the cross.
- iii. Garden of Gethsemane – *Not My will, but Your will be done.* Even the taunts on the cross - *If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.*
- iv. We have the truth – “*tempted as we are, yet without sin.*”

NEXT Page - - - - -

- b. **Further study:** Jesus was tempted in every way just as we are—yet He never sinned. Led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness, He fasted forty days & faced real temptation. Empowered by the Spirit, He answered every test with the Word & perfect obedience to the Father. He faced what we face... & walked out without sin. That is the pure, spotless Lamb who became sin for us.

Listen: ^{1 John 2:16} *For all that the world can offer us—the gratification of our flesh, the allurement of the things of the world, and the obsession with status and importance—none of these things come from the Father but from the world.* TPT

- i. Jesus was tempted with “*gratification*” of His flesh – He was hungry – Stones into bread
 - ii. Then – *allurement of the things of the world* – Presumption & audacity, testing God – Throw Yourself from the temple –
 - iii. Then Satan says, “*Worship me and receive the kingdoms.*” – *the obsession with status and importance* –
- c. Let me be clear before we move on: Jesus was tempted in EVERY way, yet without sin.

B. **Be Sin for us**

- a. Commentator David Guzik says, “His becoming sin was a righteous act of love, not an act of sin.”
- b. That great preacher Charles Spurgeon said, “Christ was not guilty, and could not be made guilty; but He was treated as if He were guilty, because He willed to stand in the place of the guilty. Yea, He was not only treated as a sinner, but He was treated as if He had been sin itself in the abstract. This is an amazing utterance. The sinless one was made to be sin.” (Spurgeon)

NEXT Page - - - - -

c. Jesus took our sin, but gave us His righteousness, all prompted by the love of God for us! - David Guzik

Romans 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh...

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself brought our sins in His body up on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; by His wounds you were healed. NAS

d. The strongest possible reason for being reconciled to God, that Christ has been made sin for us. He was charged with my sin...

C. We might become the Righteousness of God in Him

I'm going to refer to last week's message from Pastor Vicki & the Prodigal son. Specifically, the robe the father gave the son.

a. מְעִיל – Mem, Ayin, Yod & Lamed – **The robe is a revelation from God's Word** that coming out of the season of testing (40 the number of Mem) God is doing a deep spiritual work of recreation. It covers over the rags of his poor choices & terrible decisions that brought shame & disgrace on his family.

All this is done in full view. The entire family, servants & village witnessed the transformation from prodigal to son because it is "Grace that Restores."

This is ONLY accomplished by the mighty hand of a Mighty God – *El Elyon* – It covers & guides him back into the safety of the precious arms of Father.

This robe distinguishes him as a son.

NEXT Page - - - - -

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

c. God has a robe of righteousness for you, just as the Prodigal Son received rebirth because of **new life & new beginning**, restoration because God **recovers & rebuilds what was lost**, renewal because God **makes new continually & reconciliation** because God **restores the relationship that was broken**.

2 Corinthians 5:18 *And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.* *¹⁹For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them.* *And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.* *²⁰So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"* NKJV

II. Conclusion

A. I'm going to let S.M. Lockridge close this message for me. **VIDEO**

B. The reason we can do this is because of the resurrection of Christ.

- **He asks us to:**

- * *Repent*
- * *Live by Faith*
- * *Be Baptized*
- * *Be Filled with His Spirit*

Conclusion: PRESENT THE GOSPEL FOR SALVATION – EVERY WEEK – AND THE NEED TO COME FORWARD IN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST.