

# Fifteen Words of Hope

(2)

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2 Corinthians 5:21

(Continuation from 05/19/13)

## Fifteen Words of Hope

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

<sup>21</sup> He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. [24 words]

2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV)

<sup>21</sup> 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. [25 words]

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Greek)

<sup>21</sup> τον μη γνοντα αμαρτιαν υπερ ημων αμαρτιαν εποιησεν ινα ημεις γενωμεθα δικαιοσυνη θεου εν αυτω [15 words]

Because Adam's fall plunged the entire human race into sin (Romans 5:12-21), all people are sinners from birth. "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity," lamented David, "and in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalms 51:5). In Psalms 58:3 he added, "The wicked are estranged from the womb; these who speak lies go astray from birth" (cf. Genesis 8:21; Isaiah 48:8). Not only are all people sinners by nature, they are also sinners by action. To the Romans Paul wrote, "There is none righteous, not even one" (Romans 3:10; cf. Psalms 14:1-3; Psalms 53:1-3).

Later in that chapter he added, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23); consequently, "There is no man who does not sin" (1 Kings 8:46), and no one can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin" (Proverbs 20:9).

The inevitable outcome for all those infected by the sin plague is death. Ezekiel 18:20 states plainly, "The person who sins will die" (cf. v. 4). Adam's tragic epitaph, "and he died" (Genesis 5:5) will be written for all his descendants (cf. Genesis 5:8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31; Genesis 9:29).

Nor is the prognosis any better in the spiritual realm.

Sin produces two disastrous spiritual consequences:

- 1) Alienation from God in this life (Ephesians 2:12; Ephesians 4:18; Colossians 1:21), and
- 2) Unrelenting punishment in hell in eternity (Matthew 25:41, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelations 14:9-11; Revelations 20:11-15).