

06-30-13

Series: Fifteen Words of Hope

Fifteen Words of Hope

(7)

Pastor Eddie Idefonso

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#)

(Continuation from 06/23/13)

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[2 Corinthians 5:21 \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ 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 \(KJV\)](#)

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. [25 words]

[2 Corinthians 5:21 \(Greek\)](#)

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

[2 Corinthians 5:21](#) is like a cache of rare jewels, each deserving of a careful, reverential examination under the magnifying glass of Scripture.

It yields truths about the 1) benefactor, 2) the substitute, 3) the beneficiaries, and 4) the benefit.

The Benefactor

He made (5:21a)

[2 Corinthians 5:21a \(NASB\)](#)

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

But Christianity proclaims the glorious, liberating truth that God is neither hostile nor indifferent but a loving Savior by nature. He does not need to be appeased (and indeed cannot be by any human means). Instead, He Himself has provided His own appeasement for justice and the means for sinners to become His beloved children through the sacrifice of His Son ([Romans 8:32](#); [1 John 4:10, 14](#)), which fully propitiated His wrath.

As a result, those who come to Him through faith are “justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus” ([Romans 3:24](#)). Because Christ’s sacrifice perfectly satisfied the demands of God’s righteousness and justice, God freely offers forgiveness and reconciliation: “Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost” ([Isaiah 55:1](#); cf. [Revelation 22:17](#)).

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Reconciliation required the death of God's Son because **“the wages of sin is death”** ([Romans 6:23](#)) and therefore, **“The person who sins will die”** ([Ezekiel 18:20](#)). The slaughter of countless millions of sacrificial animals under the Old Testament economy graphically illustrated that truth. Though unable to atone for sin, since **“it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins”** ([Hebrews 10:4](#)), those sacrifices forcibly drove home the point that sin results in death, and death is required to satisfy the demands of God's law when it is violated.

They also made the people who incessantly offered them long for the final substitute to whom the sacrifices pointed (cf. [Isaiah 53](#)). And when in accordance with the Father's plan the final substitute came, He willingly laid down His life to bring the final satisfaction to God only pictured in the sacrificial ceremonies and ritual killings of animals ([John 10:11, 18](#); [Philippians 2:7-8](#)).