

December 19, 2021

**The Gifts of Christ: We have the righteousness of Christ imputed to us.**

**2 Cor. 5:21, “God made Him Who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.” (NIV)**

This is how God made reconciliation possible. Jesus, Who had never sinned, could be the only One to do this. He proclaimed this before the Jewish leaders in **John 8:46, “Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe Me?” (NIV)**

The only One Who had never sinned could be the only One that could take on our sin. He did not become a sinner, but He instead became sin for us. This was a righteous act of love. Instead of being guilty of His own actions, He stood in our place of guilt. Although spotless and clean, He allowed the wrath of God to fall on Him in our stead. He paid the sin debt for every person who has or will ever live. Not for a selected few, but for every person, everywhere. **1 John 2:2, “He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (NIV)** This truly is amazing love poured out upon us.

And here is what I like to call is **The Great Exchange**. Jesus took our sin and gave us His righteousness! Did we deserve this? Could we earn this? Absolutely not! This is the truth known as justification. This is a financial term where He justifies the ‘spiritual balance’ so that we could be justified and not in debt. He paid a debt that He did not owe, for us.

**Dear LORD, what a wonderful gift You have given us, the gift of reconciliation. We have been made right with You even though we were not right. You took on our shame and sin. You paid our debt. You became sin for us. Help us to never take this for granted. In Jesus Name, Amen**