

Theme: Christ took our sins and gave us His righteousness so that it is just as if we had never sinned, and just as if we had kept the Law.

I. Intro – A Tale of Two Cities

- A. Read the beginning
- B. Sydney Carton dies for Charles Darnay
- C. Quote the end
- D. A great exchange took place
- E. Similar to Calvary – except Christ was sinless!

II. The Sacrificial Lamb

- A. The Lamb had to be without blemish/sin
 - 1. Leviticus 1:3 - must be without defect
 - 2. Leviticus 1:3 - offered properly to be acceptable
 - 3. Exodus 12:5 - Passover lamb - no defect
- B. He who had no sin - Unblemished One (2 Corinth. 5:21)
 - 1. Had no sin - Christ had not sinned (2 Corinth. 5:21)
 - 2. Hebrews 4:15 - the astounding fact
 - 3. 1 Peter 2:22 - quoting Isaiah 53:9 (Lamb metaphor)
 - 4. 1 Peter 1:18-19 - Lamb without blemish or defect

III. Our Sin Taken Away

- A. Human sin punished in the sacrificial Lamb (Lev 1:4)
 - 1. Hands placed on head - transfer sin

- 2. The lamb slain - punishment for sin - atonement

B. Christ took our sin and was punished

- 1. Became sin for us - like the lambs - 2 Cor 5:21
- 2. Jesus took our sin, punished in our place (Is. 53:4-6)
 - a. Took sin - took up, carried, Lord laid on Him (vv4,6)
 - b. Punished - pierced, crushed, punishment (v5)

C. Part 1 of exchange - Just as if I'd never sinned

IV. His Righteousness Given To Us

- A. In order that – this is the purpose (2 Cor 5:21)
- B. We might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21)
 - 1. No precedence in sacrificial system
 - 2. It was a one way transfer - this is two way
- C. Righteousness of God – not ethics; legal standing
 - 1. Context – 2 Cor 5:18-20 - reconciliation (5x), not ethical
 - 2. Paul's use of phrase in similar contexts
 - a. Philippians 3:9 - righteousness from God given to us
 - b. 1 Corinth. 1:30 - wisdom from God - righteousness
- D. This is Christ's righteousness as Law-Keeper
 - 1. Galat. 4:4-5 – born under law to redeem those under law
 - 2. Matthew 5:17 – came to fulfill Law - and did for us!
- E. Part 2 of exchange – Just as if I'd done God's will

V. Applying the Word - Receiving the Great Exchange

A. Have I received the great exchange?

1. Note that it is 'in Him' we become righteous
2. Be reconciled to God **today** (2 Cor 5:21-6:2)
3. I urge all to turn to Christ - receive great exchange

B. Do I realize my place before God?

1. God sees us as without sin - spotless & blameless
2. It is 'just as if I had never sinned' - glorious news!
3. God sees us as positively righteous Law-keepers
4. This is better than Adam in the Garden!
5. It is 'just as if I'd kept the law' - more glorious news!
6. Not only not punished; positively blessed
7. Celebrate this gift this week!

The Great Exchange

Leviticus 1:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21

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Communion

Numbers 6:24-26

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way...

It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known.

The animals you choose must be year-old males **without defect**, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Exodus 12:5

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

“He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 1 Peter 2:22
(Quoting from Isaiah 53:9)

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, **a lamb without blemish or defect**. 1 Peter 1:18–19

Surely **he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows**, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5 **But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed**. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and **the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all**. Isaiah 53:4–6

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
Philippians 3:8–9

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us **wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness**, holiness and redemption. 1 Corinthians 1:30

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, **born under law, 5 to redeem those under law**, that we might receive the full rights of sons.
Galatians 4:4–5

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
Matthew 5:17

If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to offer a male without defect. He must present it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting so that it will be acceptable to the LORD. ⁴ He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.

Leviticus 1:3–4

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21