



Sunday, December 13, 2020

Pastor Tim Van Loh

Intro to 2 Corinthians 5:21

There are lots of big theological words out there. At times it can seem like they don't make any sense, or they don't make any difference in our lives. In one sense, they can be difficult to understand and there are even some that might not make a tremendous difference in your day-to-day life. In another sense, big words like "imputation" are at the very heart of our faith. So, even if we don't know all the big words, it's important that we understand what imputation is and how crucial it is for our salvation.

For us to be made right with God, something had to be done about our sin. We could not enter His presence without some kind of sacrifice that would pay the penalty for our sin. God gave us a picture of that kind of sacrifice in the Old Testament where they would sacrifice bulls and goats and other animals. However, those sacrifices were just pictures, they couldn't actually take away our sins. So, Christ came to die on the cross, and because He never sinned, He was able to take our sin on Himself. Then, because He had taken our sin away, if we commit to Him by faith, then we are united to Him, and His righteousness "counts" for us. We become righteous as He really is righteous.

Context

As Pastor Tim said in his sermon, this verse serves as the logical basis for Paul's assertion that we are ambassadors for Christ (v. 20). If people can only be counted righteous in Christ, then apart from Christ, people remain unrighteous and doomed to suffer the punishment they deserve because of their sin. But we are to plead with people to be reconciled to God through Christ, because there is no other way for them to be made right with Him. So, we ought to see the people in our lives in one of two categories—those who are in Christ, and those who aren't.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

“What Jesus Became so We Could Become”

2 Mysteries

- Incarnation
- Imputation

2 Pillars

- John 3:16
- 2 Cor. 5:21

Imputation

He made Him to be sin who knew no sin

- We enjoy sin (Heb. 11:24-25)
- We envy others when they sin (Ps. 73:3)
- We question why others seem to get away with sin (Job 21:7-16)
- Jesus was sinless (Heb. 4:15)
- Jesus was forgiving (Luke 23:34)

So that in Him we might become the righteousness of God

- “In Him” (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Rom. 6:3-5; Eph. 2:8-10)

Discuss

- 1) Apart from Christ, how do people in the world try to become righteous?
- 2) Why do we tend to enjoy sin, envy others when they sin, or question why people “get away” with sin?
- 3) How does v. 21 impact your view of your own sin?
- 4) What does v. 21 teach us about how God views us in Christ?
- 5) How is this verse the basis for pleading with others to be reconciled to God (v. 20)?