

**Our Righteousness in Jesus Christ**  
**- Ron Stullenbarger -**

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 describes one of the most powerful outcomes of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross. *"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* (ESV)

Jesus' death on the cross defeated the power of sin and darkness and set us free to walk in the glorious light of righteousness. You and I have been transformed by the power of Jesus' death. He took every sin we would ever commit and bore the entirety of their penalty. Through the death of Jesus, you and I are now free to live as new creations formed in the righteous and holy image of our heavenly Father.

When God tore the veil, He demonstrated that our sin and depravity couldn't hold back His presence any longer. Thousands of years of pent-up longing for restored relationship burst forth proclaiming the newfound nature of God's people who would choose to accept and follow Jesus.

Even though Jesus defeated the power of sin in our lives, our great enemy continues to tempt us, lie to us, and steal from us the abundant life God intends. He continues to try to rob God of what He so fully deserves: unencumbered relationship with His children.

Satan lies to us and tells us that sin still causes God to withhold Himself from us. We allow condemnation that is not of God to creep in and cause us to believe that our heavenly Father doesn't want to be with us. But the truth is, God always wants to be with His children. God runs out to us, calls us His beloved, wraps us with honor and His righteousness, and leads us into His glorious embrace.

Take time and renew your mind to your righteousness in Jesus. Refresh the revelation of your freedom from sin and allow your longings to be satisfied in God rather than the world.