

A person is walking away from the viewer on a dirt path that leads towards a large, simple wooden cross. The cross is positioned in the upper center of the frame. The background is a hazy, golden landscape with soft, diffused light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

In Christ

What it means to be saved?

Justified: The Heart of the Gospel

2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2

Quick Review

The first week: New identity, purpose and power (John 15)

The second week: Our needs have been met (Ephesians 1)

The third week: Eternal life begins today (1 Cor. 15)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

— 2 Corinthians 5:21

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 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. 16 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. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 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. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 6 1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2



2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2

The Main idea: Jesus died, so that we might live; taking our sin and giving us in exchange His righteousness.

14-15: Our Origin Story: The gospel

16-17: Reconciled in Christ and Made New

18-21: God's Great Act in Christ: a ministry and a message

6:1-2: How shall we respond?

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- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy
our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the
saints who are in the whole of Achaia.

- 2 Cor. 1:1-2

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- 2 Cor. 5:16-17

1 Then Job answered the LORD and said: 2 “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
. . . 5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you.

- Job 42:1-2, 5

we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.

- Ephesians 2:3-5

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 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. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Cor. 5:18-21

LEGAL LANGUAGE:

God and humanity are at odds with one another.

The need for reconciliation implies that there is a broken relationship.

The mention of “their trespasses” implies that humans are the guilty party.

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- 2 Cor. 5:19-21

Atonement:

is what we do to fix relationships fractured by wrongdoing. To atone is, at first pass, to do something to repair this rupture by addressing the source of the rupture, namely the wrongdoing. The end goal is to become one, to be at one, or to reconcile. . .

Atonement is a particularly prominent concept within Judaism and Christianity, which hold that humans must atone for their sins against God. The Christian doctrine of the atonement states that Christ has atoned for human sins.

-Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, “Atonement”

Substitutionary Atonement in the Old Testament

Gen 3:21: Adam and Eve

Gen 22:6-14: God provided a ram for Abraham

Exodus 12:3-12: Passover

Leviticus 4:14-21: The Sin offering

14 when the sin which they have committed becomes known, the assembly shall offer a bull from the herd for a sin offering and bring it in front of the tent of meeting. . . And the priest shall make atonement for them, and they shall be forgiven.

- Leviticus 4:14, 20

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Leviticus 16: The annual Day of Atonement

30 For on this day shall atonement be made for you to cleanse you. You shall be clean before the Lord from all your sins. . .

34 And this shall be a statute forever for you, that atonement may be made for the people of Israel once in the year because of all their sins.”

- Leviticus 16: 30,34

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Isaiah 53: The Messiah would be a Suffering Servant

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. . . Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, . .

11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. . . 12 because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

- Isaiah 53:4-6,11,12



For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Cor. 5:21

In his mercy he took upon himself our sins; he himself gave up his own Son as a ransom for us, the holy one for the lawless, the guiltless for the guilty, the just for the unjust, the incorruptible for the corruptible, the immortal for the mortal. For what else but his righteousness could have covered our sins? In whom was it possible for us, the lawless and ungodly, to be justified, except in the Son of God alone? O the sweet exchange, O the incomprehensible work of God, O the unexpected blessings, that the sinfulness of many should be hidden in one righteous person, while the righteousness of one should justify many sinners!

-Epistle to Diognetus, 9.2–5, 130 AD.

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- 2 Corinthians 5:19, 6:1-2