

## Easter Studies - 2021

### Study 1 - Good Friday - The Suffering and Glory of the Servant

(Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18:1-19:42)

*Sermon on Good Friday 2-Apr-2021*

Read Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12

1. As you read these verses; how does each verse relate to Jesus and His ministry?

52:13 - **See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.**

*Jesus is a servant - He came to serve not to be served (Mark 10:45)*

*Jesus was lifted up on the cross just like Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness (John 3:14). Jesus was also raised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.*

*Jesus was exalted to the Highest Place by the Father and given the name above all names (Philippians 2:9)*

52:14 - **Just as there were many who were appalled at him- his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness**

*As he hung on that cross, remember Jesus had been scourged to the point of death and a crown of thorns placed on his head; His appearance would have been difficult to look at!*

52:15 - **so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.**

*Sprinkling is often used to describe the cleansing of sin in the Old Testament (Ex 24:8; Leviticus 3:6; Numbers 19:21; Ezekiel 36:25). This promised servant will bring cleansing to many nations.*

*Isaiah also says Kings will be shocked into silence - they will see and think about things they have never seen or thought about before. This verse is also quoted in Romans 15:21 where Paul is saying he has a desire to preach the Gospel where Christ was not known (Romans 15:20) and quoted in Ephesians 3:4-5 where Paul says he has an insight into the mystery of Christ which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.*

53:1 - **Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

*Not everyone will believe the Promised Servant's message. As quoted in Romans 10:16 - not all of the Israelites accepted the Good News (of Jesus). Also, as John 12:37-38 says - even though Jesus performed so many signs, people still not believe Him, and Isaiah 53:1 is then quoted.*

**53:2 - He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.**

*Jesus grew up with seeming weakness and insignificance (a humble carpenter from Galilee). He wasn't some handsome King; nothing about the way He looked made Him attractive to people!*

**53:3 - He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.**

*He was despised by the Jews so much - they rejected Him and had Him arrested by the Romans.*

*He certainly suffered physically when scourged & crowned with thorns; and crucified on the cross; but also suffered emotionally - wrongly accused, deserted by most of His followers, rejected by His own people and for a time forsaken by His Father.*

**53:4 - Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted**

*Matthew 8:17 quotes Isaiah 53:4 and states that Jesus fulfils this verse by healing people who were really sick.*

*He also took up our death and bore our suffering, for our sins.*

*The Jews believed He must be punished (by God) for claiming to be God and King! So, they thought they were justified in having Jesus killed for blasphemy because He said 'He is the Son of God' (John 19:7).*

**53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

*Jesus was pierced (nails on the cross) for our sins (also quoted in Psalm 22:16).*

*Jesus had to die for our sins to be forgiven (see John 3:17; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3 and Hebrews 9:28).*

*Jesus also brought peace between God and humans, through His death on the cross (cf. Romans 9:6; Romans 5:1)*

*And because of His wounds (scourging and nail marks) we are healed of the punishment for our sins and healed from fearing death, and instead we have forgiveness and eternal life (also quoted in 1 Peter 2:24-25)*

**53:6 - We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

*To Jesus, all humankind are like sheep, people lost from God and have gone their own way. Also quoted in Isaiah 44:2.*

*Romans 4:25 says Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins, and we were justified (just as if we haven't sinned). See also John 3:16-17 and 1 Peter 2:24.*

**53:7 - He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.**

*As we previously said, Jesus suffered greatly after his arrest.*

*When Jesus was questioned, he did not answer (see Mark 14:61) and they led him away to be crucified like a sacrificial lamb.*

*He was referred to as The Lamb of God (Matthew 27:21 and John 1:29) - the sacrificial Passover lamb.*

**53:8 - By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people, he was punished.**

*Jesus was arrested, imprisoned, interrogated and found guilty.*

*Who of his generation protested? No one [except perhaps Peter - who then denied Jesus] protested about Jesus' false arrest and death.*

*Cut off from the land of the living. In other words, Jesus suffered death for people' sins.*

**53:9 - He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.**

*Jesus died in the company of thieves (Luke 23:32-33).*

*Yet despite the intention for him to die with criminals; God arranged for Him to have a tomb/grave with the rich. The wealthy Joseph of Arimathea provided a grave for Him (Luke 23:50-56; Matthew 27:57-60)*

*Yet despite the unfairness of His arrest and interrogation, Jesus never showed any violence or retaliation. Jesus never sinned; He remained the Holy One of God.*

**53:10 - Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.**

*It was God's plan for Jesus (The Word made flesh) to suffer and make His life an offering. As God promised in Isaiah 55:11 that His Word will not return to Him empty but will accomplish, His purposes! God was committed to reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:19-21). The purposes that God willed to happen by sending Jesus, happened just as God intended; Jesus brought reconciliation.*

**53:11 - After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.**

*Jesus will not remain dead; He will see the light of life. He rose and He lives on!  
He will justify many and bear our sins; all those who believe in Jesus' death and resurrection  
will be saved (John 5:24)*

**53:12 - Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

*After that, Jesus will be exalted and given a portion among the great (Philippians 2:9).  
He was poured out for us (Matthew 26:28).*

*He was numbered with transgressors (Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27; Luke 22:37, 23:32)*

*He bore our sins (1 Peter 2:24)*

*He bore the sin of many (Hebrews 9:28)*

*And He intercedes for us (Romans 8:34)*

*It is remarkable how much this Isaiah passage relates to Jesus and His ministry and mission!*

### **Read Acts 8:26-35**

2. What passage was the Ethiopian eunuch reading; and what's the answer to the question he asks in verse 34?

*The Ethiopian Eunuch was reading Isaiah 53 (verses 7 and 8 quoted in Acts 6:32-33)*

*The question in v34 is answered by Philip in verse 35, that the Isaiah passage refers to Jesus.*

### **Read John 18:1-14**

3. How does Judas know where to find Jesus? Who does Judas bring with him?

*Judas knew Jesus daily habit of prayer (see Luke 21:37)*

*A band of soldiers and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees.*

4. In verses 5 & 6 Jesus literally (in the original language) says "**I am**". Where else has He said that?

*Used in verse 8.*

*I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35); Light of the World (John 8:12); The Gate/Door (John 10:9);*

*The Good Shepherd (John 10:11); The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25-26); The Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6); The Vine (John 15:5)*

*See Exodus 3:13-14 - where God tells Moses His name - "I AM WHO I AM! - I AM has sent me to you"*

5. Why do you think those approaching Jesus, drew back at the end of verse 6?

*There was such a display of divine presence, majesty, power and authority in those words "I AM" that the enemies of Jesus felt powerless and drew back.*

6. Why does Jesus go with them willingly?

*He had to do the Father's will (Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; Matthew 26:39) - as Jesus says in John 4:34 - **My food is to do the will of the Father who sent me and to finish His work.***

7. How does Jesus deal with Peter's impulsiveness?

*Jesus did not praise Peter for such an act; but told him to stop.*

*In Luke's Gospel, Jesus touched the man's ear (that Peter had cut off) and healed him (Luke 22:51).*

*Jesus came in peace, not in violence.*

*It's ironic, that Peter is brave enough to stand up for Jesus with a sword but not with his mouth later on.*

8. What does Jesus mean in verse 11 "**Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me**"?

*In the Old Testament, a cup was used as a symbol of God's wrath (Jeremiah 25:15-16; Isaiah 51:17-12; Lamentations 4:21; Ezekiel 23:28-34 and Habakkuk 2:16).*

*Jesus knew He had to suffer for the sin of the world.*

*He refers to His suffering as a cup full of bitterness; which He prays might be taken from Him when He prayed in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:39, 42). Jesus also knew that He must drink this cup, because it is the Father's will (John 18:11)*

**Read John 18:15-18; 25-27**

9. Why do you think Peter denied knowing Jesus? (cf. John 13:38)

*Firstly, Peter had to deny Jesus; because Jesus prophesied that Peter would deny Him.*

*Secondly, despite Peter's bravado, he was afraid, he wanted to stand up for Jesus; but when it came to actually doing it, he couldn't.*

10. **Reflection:** How do you think you would have gone in Peter's situation? (cf. Matthew 26:41b)

*We must be careful to say we could have done any better.*

*Peter's faith and courage both failed here.*

*As Jesus, told his disciples when they failed to stay awake for Him*

*The Spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.*

**Read John 18:19-24**

11. How does Jesus handle His interrogation here? (cf. John 7:26; Matthew 5:39)

*Jesus explains that His ministry has always been a public one and there have been many witnesses who heard Him; He suggests the High Priest ask these witnesses what He said.*

*When Jesus is struck - He virtually turns the other cheek - by saying He is telling the truth, so why are they striking Him?*

**Read John 18:28-40**

12. Where did the Jewish leaders take Jesus?

*In v24, Annas (father in-law of Caiaphas) sent him to Caiaphas for further interrogation. Then in v28, Jesus is sent to the governor's headquarters.*

13. Why didn't the Jewish leaders enter the Palace? Where's the hypocrisy in this?

*They did not enter the Palace because they believed Gentile homes were unclean; if they entered the Palace, then would be unclean and unable to share in the Passover meal.*

*The hypocrisy of this is that they won't break a relatively minor rule but they are happy to plot the murder of an innocent man, who happens to be God's chosen Messiah!*

14. What does Pilate say the Jewish leaders should do in verse 31? On what grounds do they refuse?

*Pilate says they should judge Jesus themselves.*

*They reply that it is not lawful for them to put anyone to death, as they are under Roman Law. Historian, Josephus, says "it was not lawful to hold a court of judgement in capital cases, without the consent of the Roman Procurator" (although that didn't stop the Jews stoning Stephen to death!*

*By them pushing for the Romans to kill Jesus; also fulfilled Jesus' words about the manner of His death (He will be lifted up - John 3:14)*

15. What's so impressive about Jesus' answers in verses 34, 36 and 37?

*V34 - Jesus wanted to know if Pilate really wanted to know who He was or if He asked the question on behalf of His accusers, who had already condemned Him.*

*If Pilate is asking - He's asking if Jesus is a political king in opposition to Caesar. The answer would be "NO".*

*If Pilate is asking on behalf of the High Priest, Caiaphas, - then he's asking - are you the Messiah King of Israel, promised by God - then the answer would be "YES".*

*V36 - Jesus explained a) He is a King b) He has a Kingdom and c) It's not a rival political Kingdom and d) His Kingdom is not of this world*

*V37 - Jesus says He is a King; He was born a King; He is a different type of King, a King of Truth.*

16. How does Jesus define truth?

17. What custom does Pilate introduce and what is the Jews' response? Why?

*Pilate can find no guilt in Jesus, so he calls upon the custom of releasing one prisoner at the time of Jewish festivals. He hopes they might ask for Jesus to be released. But they cry out for a rebel and robber called Barabbas to be released.*

*Why? Because their hearts were so hard against Jesus; they had rejected Him!  
The same thing happens today; people choose other "Barabbas's" instead of Jesus!*

**Read John 19:1-16**

18. What is Pilate hoping to achieve in verses 1 to 6? What is the response of the chief priests and officials?

*Pilate hope that if Jesus was punished by scourging (a very cruel process) that this might be enough for the Jews to be satisfied.*

*They were not satisfied with that; they wanted Jesus dead and cried out, crucify him!*

19. What charge do the Jewish leaders make in verse 7?

*The charge is blasphemy as Jesus said He was the Son of God.*

20. What does Jesus say about Pilate's power?

*Jesus said Pilate only had the power to release him or have him killed, because God had given Pilate that power in the first place.*

21. What dilemma does Pilate have according to verse 12?

*If Pilate releases Jesus, he will be in trouble from Caesar as Jesus is seen as a King who opposes Caesar and Pilate will have released him.*

22. What's ironic about Pilate passing judgment on Jesus?

*The irony is, Jesus is the ultimate judge (John 5:27; Acts 10:42; 2 Cor 5:10)*

23. What's wrong with the chief priests' statement in verse 15?

*They DO have a King - it's God., not Caesar!*

**Read John 19:17-27**

24. What's the purpose of Jesus' carrying his own cross?

*It was Roman custom for the offender to carry their own cross to the place of the crucifixion, so that those watching would know the offender's crime and fate. This would act as a deterrent to other would-be offenders.*

25. What did Pilate have written on the notice fastened to the cross? Why? (cf. John 18:33-34)

*King of the Jews!*

*Why? Because Jesus had said he was a King.*

*Also, a deterrent, to those who read Jesus' alleged offence.*

26. Why did the chief priests and Jews complain about the wording of the notice?

*They didn't want it said Jesus IS the King of the Jews but that Jesus SAID He was King of the Jews! They wanted people to see what Jesus' offence was, so no one else made the claims Jesus made.*

27. What scripture is fulfilled in relation to Jesus' clothes?

*Psalm 22:18*

28. What does Jesus do in verses 25-27? Why?

*Even in such agony, Jesus made provision for his mother to be cared for by the Apostle John. Why?*

*Some reasons:*

- a. To perhaps emphasize relationships IN JESUS, are more important than blood relationships.*
- b. To honour John (only disciple we know of) who was courageous enough to stand with Jesus in his time of torment.*
- c. Because Jesus' siblings did not believe in Him at this time, and Jesus wanted his mother taken care of by a believer.*
- d. Perhaps because John would outlive all Jesus' siblings*
- e. Perhaps simply out of wisdom and foresight.*

**Read John 19:28-37**

29. What does Jesus mean by the words "*It is finished*" (Luke 12:50; John 4:34; John 17:4 and Psalm 22:31)

*Jesus means His earthly mission to take away the punishment for sin had been completely finished.*

*All the prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament are fulfilled.*

*All the sacrifices and ceremonies of the priesthood were finished with.*

*His perfect life of obedience on Earth is finished.*

*The satisfaction of God's justice was finished.*

*God's wrath was satisfied.*

*The power of Satan, sin and death (in 3 days) was finished.*

30. What problem is there with leaving Jesus' body on the cross?

*As a special Passover Sabbath was approaching, and they did not want Jesus body to remain exposed overnight. In Old Testament, Deut 21:22-22-23 - says a body put to death on a pole must not be left overnight.*

31. Why don't the Romans have to break Jesus' legs?

*Jesus was already dead.*

32. What evidence are we presented with that Jesus is dead? What scripture is fulfilled?

*Blood and water came out of Jesus' side, indicating that the sac surrounding the heart which normally had a watery substance in it, had blood also; indicating death.*

*Scripture fulfilled - Psalm 34:20 - no bones broken - and Zechariah 12:10 - they shall look at him whom they have pierced.*

**Read John 19:38-42**

33. What do Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus have in common?

*Both followers of Jesus - albeit mostly in secret, until now.*

34. What did they do with Jesus' body? Why?

*Normally bodies were left to rot and be eaten by birds and wild animals.*

*But the Romans did allow relatives and friends to take bodies for proper burial.*

*The Jews of the day regarded proper burial of the dead as most important. Many went out of their way to ensure their fellow countrymen received a proper burial.*

35. What prophecy is fulfilled?

*Isaiah 53:9 says He will have a grave - and that it would be with the rich (Joseph of Arimathea) in His death.*

*Matthew 12:40 - Jesus said He would be buried for 3 days.*

*Psalm 16:10 - says He will not see His Holy One decay*

**Finish in prayer:** Thanking Jesus for always obeying the Father's will and laying down His life for the sin of the world. Confess our sin (past, present and future) that was placed on Jesus.

## Study 2 Easter Sunday – Dead to Sin, Alive to Christ (Luke 24:1-12 and Romans 6:1-14)

*Sermon on Good Friday 4-Apr-2021*

**Note:** there are other parallel accounts of Jesus' resurrection in Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8 and John 20:1-18.

### Read Luke 24:1-12

1. What day of the week is it? Why will that become important?

*First day of the week which is Sunday.*

*This became important in the early Christian church as Christians met on a different day to those people who remained in Judaism (who met on the Sabbath – Saturday).*

*In Acts 20:7 – The disciples met on the first day of the week. Which is what we do today.*

2. Why do the women come to the tomb?

*The body of Jesus had been hastily prepared for burial by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (John 19:38-41). The women came with spices to properly complete the job that had been done in hurry.*

3. What do they find in verses 2 & 3? How is that possible according to other accounts of Jesus' resurrection?

*The stone was rolled away from the tomb.*

*Jesus' dead body was not in the tomb.*

*Matthew tells us that the tomb was being guarded by soldiers.*

*Matthew also tells us that an angel rolled away the stone.*

*Note: the stone was rolled away so people could see the empty tomb – not so Jesus could get out of the tomb.*

4. Who appears to the women in verse 4?

*Two angels. Just as angels announced Jesus' birth; so, they announce His resurrection.*

5. What do the women find out about Jesus in verses 5 and 6?

*The angels ask the women why they are looking for the living amongst the dead.*

*Jesus is risen; He is alive!*

6. What are the women reminded of? (cf. Matthew 16:21)

*The women are reminded of what Jesus said:*

*Matt 16:21 says: From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

7. When the women return from the tomb, what reaction is there from:

a. The Eleven? Why?

*The Eleven did not believe the women when they told them what had happened at the tomb.*

b. Peter? What does he do to verify their story?

*He ran to the tomb himself and saw the strips of linen lying by themselves and he went away; he 'wondered to himself what had happened'*

8. Not that we need evidence to believe Jesus is risen; but what evidence do we find in:

a. Matthew 28:9-10?

*The women came face to face with Jesus. They clasped his feet and worshipped Him. Jesus told them not to be afraid, and to go and tell the disciples to meet Jesus at Galilee.*

b. John 20:11-18?

*When Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb, she saw 2 angels seated where Jesus should have been - at his head and foot. She met Jesus, and thought He was a gardener. Jesus told her to go and tell the disciples that Jesus is alive and ascending to the Father.*

c. Luke 24:36-49

*Jesus appeared to His disciples. He showed them His hands and feet.*

*He ate with them.*

*He says He is fulfilling prophecy by being alive!*

*He gives them understanding of the scriptures.*

*He gives them the job of sharing the Gospel.*

*He tells them to stay where they are until the Father sends the Holy Spirit.*

d. Acts 1:1-11

*Jesus appeared to the disciples over a period of 40 days (6 weeks) and spoke about the Kingdom of God.*

*He promises the gift of the Holy Spirit so they can be His witnesses.*

*Then Jesus ascended into the clouds and into Heaven.*

e. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

*Jesus appeared to Peter; to the twelve apostles; to 500 brothers and sisters at the same time, most still living and so can verify that fact; then appeared to James, then to all the apostles and last of all to Paul.*

## Read Romans 6:1-11

1. What is the Apostle Paul's rhetorical question in verse 1? What does he mean?

*Shall we go on sinning so that we get even more grace than we have already received, by Jesus giving us the free gift of forgiveness and eternal life?*

*What he means is people could think Christians can live a life of sin as we can't save ourselves, Jesus has saved us. They might think God will always overcome more sin, with more grace; and so, we can do what we like.*

2. What's Paul's answer in verse 2?

*No, we shouldn't go on sinning; when we became Christians, we died to sin.*

*As message puts it: So, what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? I should hope not! If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there?*

3. What does Paul mean that we are **baptized** into Jesus' death?

*When we believe in Jesus we are baptized by the Holy Spirit (John 3) – just like baptism (in its true meaning) means immersed under water; when we are baptized by the Holy Spirit, we are immersed and covered over by the Holy Spirit.*

4. In what way are Christians raised from the dead according to verse 4?

*So, it's like we've gone under the water (baptized) and our old self has died.*

*Then when we come out of the water – we have a new self – a new life – as though raised from the dead with Jesus.*

5. What is Paul's reasoning in verse 5?

*As Christians, we are united to Jesus.*

*So, if we die with Him, we must also rise with Him.*

6. What happens to us in verse 6, because of Jesus?

*It's like we are crucified with Jesus – our sins are nailed to His cross. So, we are now, no longer slaves to sin. The bondage sin has over us has gone.*

7. What have we been set free from in verse 7? Does that mean we don't sin anymore?

*We have been set free of sin.'*

*It doesn't mean we won't sin anymore.*

*But our old sinful life has been nailed to the cross.*

*We have a new self which has a direction of not sinning and wanting to please God.*

8. What does Paul say we can be sure of in verse 8?

*We live with Christ.*

*So, we live a life not for ourselves but a life for God.*

*We aren't dead to sin, free from sin, and given eternal life to live as we please, but to live to please God.*

9. What victory has Jesus attained in verse 9?

*Jesus has defeated death.*

*He cannot die again. Where o death is your sting?*

10. What is different about Jesus' sacrifice for sin (compared to the Old Testament sacrifices) according to verse 10?

*It's a once and for all sacrifice.*

*Whereas the sacrifices in the Old Testament were done by sinful priests, who eventually died and sacrifices that had to be repeated; not so, with Jesus.*

11. What status do we have in verse 11?

*Our status is - Dead to Sin - Alive to God in Christ!*

### **Read Romans 6:12-14**

12. Now that we are alive to God in Christ Jesus; what responses does Paul give us in:

a. Verse 12?

*Don't let sin reign - don't give sin the time of day!*

b. Verse 13?

*Instead of sinning in any part of our lives, offer our lives to God as instruments of righteousness (as in Romans 12:1 - offer our bodies as a living sacrifices). Basically, living our life to bring glory (praise & honour) to God - not to ourselves. We are signposts to Jesus and to God.*

c. Verse 14?

*Sin's not our master anymore.*

13. What does Paul mean when he says "*you are no longer under the law but under grace*" in verse 14? (cf. Romans 2:12; 6:1)

*The Law can't save us - because none of us can obey the law completely, only Jesus can.*

*The Law's purpose is to show us our sin (just like road signs show the road rules).*

*The Law can't give us freedom from sin - but the grace of Jesus does give us freedom - as Romans 8:1 says - there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

*The grace of Jesus means we are justified - "just as if we'd never sinned"*

*God has so changed your nature by his grace that when you sin you shall be like a fish on dry land, you shall be out of your element, and long to get into a right state again. You cannot sin, for you love*

*God. The sinner may drink sin down as the ox drinketh down water, but to you it shall be as the brine of the sea. You may become so foolish as to try the pleasures of the world, but they shall be no pleasures to you.” (Spurgeon)*

**14. Ponder:** When we believe in Jesus' death and resurrection, what change do we undergo? (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

*We are NEW creation; the old self is gone; the new is here.*

*We are also RECONCILED to God.*

*We are therefore AMBASSADORS to Jesus.*

*We are made righteous. (that is - right with God and approved by God - because of Jesus)*

**Finish in prayer:** Thank God for His amazing grace in sending Jesus to die on that cross and be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Thank God that He raised Jesus from the dead, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.