

The Exchanges That Happened On Jesus' Cross

'He was despised and rejected by men; a Man of suffering and pain, and acquainted with grief and disease. He was despised as one from whom men hide their face; and we did not respect Him. He has borne our sickness and carried our suffering, yet we considered Him plagued, as struck and afflicted by God. He was pierced for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The punishment that brought our peace was on Him; and by His stripes (whipping) we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Everyone has turned to his own way and God has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, yet when He was afflicted He did not open his mouth. As a lamb that is led to slaughter and as a sheep before its shearers is mute, He did not open his mouth. He was taken away by oppression and judgment, and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off out of the land of the living and stricken for the disobedience of my people? They made His grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him. He has caused Him to suffer. When you make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed. He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of God shall prosper in His hand. After the suffering of His soul, He will see the Light and be satisfied. My righteous Servant will justify many by the knowledge of Himself and He will bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong because He poured out His soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors, yet He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors' (Isaiah 53:3 to 12).

These verses are about Jesus' crucifixion. The exchange on the cross was complete. The cross is where God provided every solution for mankind. The work on Calvary was a perfect work – a perfect and complete, divinely appointed exchange. To satisfy eternal divine justice, God put upon Jesus all the evil that was within the human race so that in return, by faith, the one who repents and believes, may receive all the goodness of God that is due by justice. Jesus took all the evil so we can enjoy all the good that the Lord has for us. All we have to do is accept it. Jesus has already done the rest. Jesus was punished for our sin so that we might be forgiven. There is a difference between sin and sins. Sins are the acts caused by overall sin; that is the sin nature born in every one of us. 'If we say we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and his Word not in us' (1 John 1:10). Why? 'Because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23). 'If we say we have no sin we are deluding ourselves and the truth is not in us' (1 John 1:8). The sin nature in us drives us to commit sins.

Exchange: Jesus was wounded all over His body for our freedom from eternal judgement. He was pierced (stabbed with a sword and nailed with Roman nails) for our transgressions. He was bruised (beaten) for our iniquities – and we go free.

Exchange: Jesus was striped for our healing and health. He was lashed or whipped for our sicknesses so that we might be healed. Jesus was made sick so we might have health. There is a difference in being healed and being in divine health. It is the will of God for the believer to be in good health. 'Beloved, I pray that you may prosper and be in health, as your soul prospers' (3 John 1:2). Divine health means we do not suffer chronic illnesses, as long as we live our lives sensibly and are wise. To be healed is to be cured of an existing illness that we may have had before accepting Jesus as our Saviour, but in the realm of Christianity, there are no hard and fast rules. We could become ill just simply because we live on this sin-soaked, bacteria-ridden earth. However, Jesus was striped for our healing and we, as Christians, have the right to ask for healing. We can claim divine health, as long as we are right with God and walk according to His purposes, and of course, as long as we don't abuse our bodies by overwork, overeating, etc.

Exchange: Jesus became sin for our righteousness. God the Father and Jesus Himself made His life an offering for sin. 'For your sake He made Jesus sin, Who knew no sin so that through Him we might become the righteousness of God' (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Exchange: Jesus became a curse for our blessing. 'Jesus purchased our freedom, redeeming us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written: Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified)' (Deuteronomy 21:23). To that end through receiving Jesus, the blessing promised to Abraham (Genesis 12:3) might come upon the Gentiles so that we through faith, might receive the promise of the Holy Spirit' (Galatians 3:13 & 14).

Exchange: Jesus became poor so we could enjoy heavenly riches. 'You know the grace of our Lord Jesus. Though He was rich yet for our sakes He became poor, that by His poverty you might become rich' (2 Corinthians 8:9). It is through His grace that we became spiritually rich. We did not deserve it, but He did it for us anyway. That is the true grace of God; kindness, gracious generosity, unmerited, unearned favour and spiritual blessing. Jesus exhausted the poverty curse – He was hungry, thirsty, unclothed, was buried in a borrowed tomb and wrapped with borrowed burial linen. He did that for our sakes.

Exchange: Jesus accepted death for our life. 'We see Jesus, Who was ranked a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because He suffered death so by the grace of God to us sinners, He might suffer death for everyone' (Hebrews 2:9). 'As one man's sin led to condemnation for all men, so one Man's act of righteousness leads to God and life for all men' (Romans 5:17). 'I came so you might have life, and have it more abundantly' (John 10:10).

Exchange: Because of Jesus, we are able to swap the old sinful nature for the new righteous nature. 'We know that our old nature was nailed to the cross with Him, so our body of sin might be destroyed, so that we might no longer be slaves to sin' (Romans 6:6). 'Put on the new nature created in God's image, in true righteousness and holiness' (Ephesians 4:24).

Exchange: Jesus suffered pain, sorrow and grief so we would have no pain, sorrow or grief. 'God will wipe away every tear from our eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be anguish, mourning, sorrow, grief nor pain any more' (Revelation 21:4).

Exchange: Jesus suffered rejection for our love and acceptance. 'What quality of love the Father has given and shown to us, that we should be named the children of God' (1 John 3:1). 'To the praise of His glorious grace, which He has made us accepted in the Beloved' (Ephesians 1:6).

It is on the cross where God provided the exchange of solutions to every single problem known to man, and they were fully taken care of on Jesus' cross. After everything was done, Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30). Jesus did what was impossible for us to achieve. 'God completely disarmed the evil principalities and powers in high places, and made a display and public example of them, triumphing over them in Him (Jesus) and on the cross' (Colossians 2:15). All we need to do is accept the list of exchanges and walk in our new life, based on the Word of God.

Amen and God bless you.

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