

Broken Hearts

by Terry W. Benton

There are so many good things in this world to be thankful for, but because it is a sin-cursed world, the world here cannot be a perfect place, and there is a big chance of experiencing many things that will break your heart. Sin causes death in general. We all die because this is not the place where the tree of life can supply us with on-going life. Sin removed us from the tree of life and the tree of life from us. Besides, sin has ruined the world so that we don't want to stay here forever among the many things that break the heart. Jesus came to give us a message to heal broken hearts. There is good news in the midst of broken hearts that help in the healing. Loss of a child is certainly heart breaking. Loss of love, friendship, partnership, companionship, family, are losses that break the heart. Loss of trust in someone you trusted is painful to the heart, and yet there is something good left in this world. A love that will be an anchor to hold you through the storm.

Psalm 34:18 - The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart,

And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Psalm 69:20 - Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none

But, he did finally find it in the unrelentless love of God. From heaviness to comfort from the God of all comfort. Those were not empty words. When his heart was overwhelmed, he knew there was a rock that was higher than himself. David knew a love that would not fail him. The Lord was his shepherd! The Lord would make sure his heart did not lack for a source of comfort. David could surely say that his broken heart in his many losses found a resting place of comfort in God who was His shepherd and refuge. We need to know God that way too!



The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. **(Matthew 5:16)**

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Made to Be Sin

By Doy Moyer



Thoughts to Ponder

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Sometimes I am struck with the beauty of a passage while, at the same time, humbled by the fact that its fullness and depth is out of my reach. The passage becomes a never-ending source of thought, ideas, and encouragement.

Such is the case for me with **2 Corinthians 5:21** — “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Who can understand the depths of this? Who can explain all that this passage sums up? I cannot. Even so, I often dwell on it, seeking to know and understand more of what it says. So brief a passage packs more power than I can fathom.

Jesus knew no sin. He was never guilty of sin. One becomes guilty of sin by commission, and Jesus did not commit sin **(1 Pet 2:22)**. Ever. He was the innocent suffering Servant, a perfect sacrifice with no blemish.

Who can explain all that this passage sums up? I cannot. Even so, I often dwell on it, seeking to know and understand more of what it says. So brief a passage packs more power than I can fathom.

Yet he was “made to be sin.” Given that He was never guilty of sin, we should not think that Jesus, in some way, became “lawlessness” **(1 John 3:4)** or fell short of God’s glory **(Rom 3:23)**. While, again, I do not fully understand what or how it all happened, I do not believe we are looking at a concept that turns Jesus into a sinner. I do not pretend to know what all happened on the cross with Jesus. Yet here are some additional thoughts that might shed some light:

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Find us on the Internet: www.auchurch.com and www.aubeacon.com

Classes This Week

Monday 8:00 PM

Class on Hebrews at 8:00 p.m. Crawford's house

Lisa Carter (Daniel's mother)	Jesse and Martha Godwin (Troy's parents)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's nephew)	Mary Edwards (Sandra Chason's mom)	Kimzey Simpson	Ruth Addison (mom of April and Julie)
Tory Colvin (sister of Case O'Dell)	Austin Rush (Katie Gentry's cousin)	Barbara Weeks	Brooke Perkins
Joel Black	Emily Thompson (Abbie Harrison's cousin)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Abbie Harrison
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Charles and Jane Hunt (Chuck's parents)	Doug Bailey (Keith's brother)
Gay Ulrich (Emma's mom)	William and Toni Herd	Taina Acuff (Anna's aunt)	Shawn Lauderdale (Larry and Joannetta's son)

July Birthdays

- 1 - Collins Hanners
- 2 - Josh Gooch
- 5 - Weston Luther
- 8 - Angela Fernandez
- 11 - Chase Winslett
- 11 - Madi White
- 11 - Clay Morris
- 14 - Laurel Jerkins
- 14 - Megan Hester
- 15 - Bradley Seymore
- 16 - Katie Martin
- 16 - Brittany Waddell
- 18 - Hannah Hinson
- 19 - Jay Borden
- 20 - Anna Maxson
- 20 - Josh Maxson
- 21 - Tori Luther
- 21 - Ron Russell
- 22 - Kate Fortenberry
- 24 - Carla Zacarias
- 25 - Betty Bradford
- 25 - Yvette Rouse
- 26 - Brandon Hester

News and Notes

- ☑ - Thanks for all who worked so hard to make our VBS successful!
- ☑ - Bill Hall will be speaking at Union Springs church, Fri-Sun, July 27-29!
- ☑ - "Marriage As God Designed It" series by Mark Broyles at Prattmont Sun-Fri, July 22-27
- ☑ - Please remember the family of Payton Davis as his grandmother, Linda Beich, died this week.
- ☑ - Orié Cecil's grandfather, Wayne Shockley, got an encouraging report this week after suffering a small stroke recently.
- ☑ - The Elders would appreciate your prayers as we seek a Hispanic preacher to work here in Auburn.
- ☑ - Orié Cecil's grandfather, Wayne Shockley, got an encouraging report this week after suffering a small stroke recently.
- ☑ - Pray for our expectant mothers: Hannah Hinson and Hannah Morris.
- ☑ - All audio is immediately uploaded to www.auchurch.com and Audio CD's placed in the foyer.

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“By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh” (**Rom 8:3**). Jesus became sin in that He took on the likeness of sinful flesh and, through His life and sacrifice, condemned sin.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree’— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.” (**Gal 3:13-14**)

In the context of one who is cursed by hanging on a tree, **Deuteronomy 21:22** says, “if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree...”

Jesus did not commit any crime punishable by death, yet He still hung on the cross as if He had. The curse here is death, and certainly by looking at Jesus on the cross, any would esteem Him “stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted” (**Isa 53:4**). One would see the effects of sin in Jesus hanging on the cross, particularly as His body went limp and He breathed His last.

Ultimately, though, I believe that the phrase (to be sin) means He became our sin sacrifice, an offering made on our behalf in order to display God’s righteousness in bringing about His promises and to provide forgiveness for us that we may be righteous. I find this passage interesting in this light:

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. (**Psa 40:6**)

Note the phrase, “...sin offering you have not required.” The term here for “sin offering” is the term for an offense, for sin, and is so used in other passages (e.g., **Ex 32:21, 30-31; Psa 32:1**). Here, “sin” stands for an offering for sin. I believe that is the essence of what **2 Corinthians 5:21** teaches us. Christ is our offering for sin. This agrees with what Peter wrote: “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed” (**1 Pet 2:24**).

Yet, what do I really know? As I reflect upon the death and resurrection of Jesus, I find that I know little to nothing, for this is not a plan that I would have ever dreamed up. It is not a display of my wisdom, power, or righteousness. Yet it displays God’s in ways that we can hardly grasp.

Praise God for His wisdom, power, and righteousness. “But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (**1 Cor 1:23-24**).

The point, though, of **2 Corinthians 5:21** is not to be a source of theological dispute over matters that we can hardly understand. Rather, it is meant to be an encouragement for being reconciled to God. **Verse 20** is an appeal by the apostle, “We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” Then, **6:1** is an appeal not to receive God’s grace in vain. While containing some deep theology, the message is meant to be practical. We may never fully understand the depths of what happened on the cross, but what we do know should be sufficient enough to evoke a response of submission to God’s will. Jesus died for us. What will we do now?



Nerve Damage

By Dene Ward

Jews about this complacency in **Mal 1:6-14**.

Have you experienced some nerve damage? My optic nerve endings cannot be regenerated, but my spiritual nerve endings can, and that hole in my service to God and devotion to his Son can once again become the size it should be, and my spiritual vision normal. So can yours.

The past few years have seen a lot of damage to my optic nerves, especially the one in my left eye. The nerve is measured by superimposing in your mind a set of ten equally sized vertical bars over it. A hole sits in the center of the nerve and its diameter should cover no more than two of those bars. That would be classified a “point two” nerve--perfect.

Nerve endings are destroyed from the center outward, so the hole becomes larger. By the time you reach your 70s or 80s, a “point three” nerve would not be unusual, and if you have the standard open angle glaucoma of ten percent of the senior population, even a “point four.” Even though still in my 60s, my right eye is already at “point five” and the left, the one that has seen the most procedures and the highest pressures, sits at “point five to point six.” Point nine is as high as you go before the nerve is totally gone.

Fluctuating pressures do the majority of the harm. It’s odd though. I cannot feel anything, and most times I cannot tell much difference in vision day to day. It’s a silent process. Usually you don’t know it’s happening, unless you stop to think how well you could see a few years ago.

Sometimes we lose our faith that way. Things seem fine. I still attend services as often as possible. I still read my Bible and pray. I still don’t do those “big bad sins.” My faith is the same as it was last year. But if you examine yourself closely, like a doctor who uses a special lens to see into the back of the eye, you would notice a difference between your faith now and your faith ten years ago.

It is so easy to become satisfied with ourselves, so satisfied that we cannot see the problem until it is much too late. Malachi talked to the returning

“You despise the name of God,” he tells them. “You pollute his table and consider service to him a burden.”

They were astonished. “How do we do this?” they asked at least twice, and Malachi told them in detail. When you read what they were doing, offering polluted food, and blind, lame and sick animals in sacrifice, it seems obvious. Yet they had become so smug in their position as “the people of God,” they could not see it. Years before they

would have, but the attitude had come upon them so gradually they hadn’t even noticed where they were headed.

This morning examine your service to God. Examine the attitude with which you greet every opportunity as a disciple of Christ, every chance you have to serve him by serving others, every occasion to show your faith in your own circumstances of life, and the appreciation you have for your salvation. Have you experienced some nerve damage? My optic nerve endings cannot be regenerated, but my spiritual nerve endings can, and that hole in my service to God and devotion to his Son can once again become the size it should be, and my spiritual vision normal. So can yours.

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light. Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your righteousness to the upright of heart! Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away, **Psa 36:7-11**.

