

# G R O W

## Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

### Declared Righteous – 2 Corinthians 5:21

What would it take for you to jump over a house? Not a toy house but a full-size residence, what would it take? You would need some assistance as your body is not capable of generating that much force and launch. People are capable of doing some incredible feats, but there are some things that are just beyond our natural capabilities. This is true spiritually as well. As much “good” as we can go on this earth; it is not enough to cover our sins and make us right with God. We need something beyond ourselves to be made right with God.

#### GET FOCUSED

It’s amazing thing that we get to spend time with God in His Word. God speaks through His Word. The Bible is more than history or moral lessons; it is God-breathed revelation. So let’s honor this opportunity and focus our hearts and minds on hearing from Him.

#### READ

Are you following a Bible reading plan? They are helpful in guiding you through God’s Word. You don’t have to start in Genesis and end in Revelation; there are many great starting points. Whether it’s one verse, a passage, or a whole book, take time to read the Bible carefully.

#### OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In addition to reading our main verse, read the verses around it to understand the **context**, to understand how it fits within the larger narrative. This verse in **2 Corinthians** is part of larger narrative about being reconciled to God. We see God desires us to be reconciled to Him, restored to right relationship. And we see that God desires for us to share this message with others so they can be reconciled as well. **Verse 21** rightly sums up how sinners can be made right with God, how we can be reconciled to God.

Now, let’s **observe** the key words and phrases, what stands out to you? What words are important to understanding the message? I see these key words and phrases: our sake, sin, righteousness.

Next we want to study these words and phrase to understand their **meaning**. There are many tools that help us understand meaning: study Bibles, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and more. One free online resource is [net.bible.org](http://net.bible.org); it’s an online study Bible and more.

The significance of “our sake” is that God did this work for us. God desires relationship with us. God is not lonely, nor does He need anything from us (**Acts 17:25**), yet God desires to know us. Jesus made it clear that God loves us and this is very significant (John 3:16). Just one problem: sin. Because our ancient parents sinned against God, we all are given to sin, and because we all sin, we are estranged from God and under condemnation (**Rom.5:12, Rom.3:23, Rom.6:23, John 3:18**). There is nothing that you and I can do to overcome our sin. We cannot earn God’s forgiveness and favor by being good (**Gal. 2:16**). We cannot do enough good works to overcome the depth of our sin. We do not just sin against other people; we sin against an infinitely holy God, and those that perish in their sin must suffer eternally. Since we are unable to save ourselves from our sin; our only is that God would do something for us.

Jesus knew no sin. He was perfectly righteous (**Heb. 4:15**). Jesus did not deserve to suffer and die, but He did so willingly so that He could pay the penalty of our sin (**Col.2:13-14**). In that sense, Jesus became sin for us because He bore our sins on the cross, in His death. Jesus did something in His suffering and death that paid the full penalty of our sin. We know this because He rose from the death, declaring victory over sin and death (**Acts 2:24, 1 Cor. 15:54-57**).

This is how sinful people can become righteous. The word righteous means we are made right before God and we are restored to right relationship with God. We cannot stand before God in our sin, so the only way that we can dwell with God and be reconciled to Him is if our sin is atoned for and if Jesus’ righteousness is given to us. And Jesus does both of things for us so that we can be righteous. Another scripture that helps us understand this is **Romans 8:1-4**. There we see that those in Christ Jesus have no condemnation. When we repent and believe in the Gospel, we are in Christ (**Mark 1:15, Acts 3:17-19**). We have no condemnation because Jesus did what rules can’t do, He became sin for us, and He suffered and died for that sin. He also lived a perfectly righteous life, fulfilling all the requirements of God on our behalf (**Rom. 5:19, Rom. 10:4**). So, when we trust in Christ, His death is sufficient for our sin, and we are completely forgiven of our sin and no longer are under condemnation. We are also given all His righteousness, so God no longer sees or our sin; rather He sees the perfection of Jesus, and we are able stand before Him in righteousness, and we are restored to right relationship with Him.

So, what’s the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? Jesus solved our sin problem so that we can have right standing and right relationship with God.

## WORSHIP

How can we live this out as to worship God with our lives? What impact does this scripture have on how we live our lives? Certainly, we celebrate this great gift. We also should consider 2 Cor. 5:20. In our redemption, God has given us a mission, a great purpose: to tell others how they can be righteous too. If God wanted, He could make rocks cry out (**Luke 19:40**), but He wants to use us to tell His story. Also consider how we are to die to sin and live to righteousness (**1 Peter 2:24**).

Take a few moments now and then continue to meditate throughout the day, how you can live this scripture. How can you celebrate this great news and who can you share it with?