



**Forest Hill
Church of Christ**
3950 Forest Hill-Irene Rd.
Memphis, TN 38125

Office: (901) 751-2444
Fax: (901) 751-9711
Info Line: (901) 392-2449
www.foresthillchurch.org

Elders:

Anthony D. Callahan
Floyd M. Hayes
Harold D. Mangrum
Leonard Watson

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider, Pulpit
Matthew Martin, Associate
Douglas Alvarenga, Hispanic

VISIT US SOON!

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A..M.
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

**HOME OF THE
MEMPHIS SCHOOL
OF PREACHING**

www.msop.org

Missions Supported:

Far East/World Evangelism
Gospel Broadcasting Network
Iglesia de Cristo (Getwell)
In Search of the Lord's Way
Kakinada, India
Manila, Philippines
Murmansk, Russia
Truth for the World
Words of the Master

Volume 33

February 7, 2006

Number 5

TRANSFERRED RIGHTEOUSNESS

Barry M. Grider

In his weekly *My Answer* column, Billy Graham recently stated,

When Jesus died on the cross, all our sins were placed on Him. In other words, although He was sinless in Himself, in God's eyes He became a 'sinner,' because our sins were transferred to Him.

Graham's first sentence is correct. The prophet Isaiah wrote, speaking of the suffering servant of God, "and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). Peter affirms this about Christ when he stated, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (1 Pet. 2:24). Thank God for our sin bearer, Jesus Christ. He paid a debt he did not owe, while we owed a debt we could not pay. He being the perfect sacrifice for sin, satisfied the justice of God, and through His blood we can be freed from sin (Rom. 5:9,10).

However, did Jesus become a sinner when he died on the cross. Absolutely not! The Bible is replete with references that Jesus never sinned (Heb. 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22). But does the Bible not teach that God made Jesus to be sin for us? Indeed Paul wrote, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (2 Cor. 5:21). The late Guy N. Woods offered these comments concerning the passage:

There are two possible and plausible views, either of which may be the significance of this passage, both of them being true from other considerations. (1) Often, in the sacred writings, the word "sin" is used of the *sin-offering*. An instance of such is to be seen in Hosea 4:8, where it is said, "They eat up the sin of my people," that is, they consume the sin-offerings, the sacrifices—meat-offerings—which were slain for the sins of the people. In this view of the matter, our Lord became our sin-offering; he, the innocent, was the antitype of the offerings of the ancient order, and thus atoned for our sins. Being our sacrifice, he thus became our sin-offering. (2) Or what is equally plausible and shown herein before to be true from other premises, the Father, in allowing his beloved Son to go to the cross, permitted him to suffer *as if he were guilty*. But, he was not guilty; the Father did not charge him with guilt; such charges as were leveled against him by his enemies were false; he was never, *in any sense*, a sinner; and so to charge him is gross blasphemy.

If the sins of man were transferred to Jesus, then Jesus would stand guilty before God. If Jesus' righteousness was transferred to man, then man would be incapable of sinning. We know this is false for John writes, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). Furthermore, if Jesus' righteousness was transferred to man it would then be impossible for man to be lost. Of course, there are many who teach this erroneous doctrine despite the clear teaching in the Bible against it (Gal. 5:4; 1 Cor. 9:27). The fact is when man obeys the gospel of Christ through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism, God then declares such a one righteous, as He did Abraham who "believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Rom. 4:3). Hence, the idea that the sins of man were transferred to Jesus, making Him the vilest sinner who ever lived is really blasphemous. Once more, the illustrious Dr. Graham has missed it, and led countless souls astray.

10 MARKS OF A GROWING CHURCH

Mike Vestal

1. **Growing churches have elders** who are spiritual men of wisdom, knowledge and vision, and who are deeply interested in the souls they are shepherding (1 Thes. 5:12, 13; 1 Tim. 3:1-7).
2. **Growing churches have deacons** who believe in servant-hood, and as deacons they rejoice for the privilege that is theirs to work in special ways to God's glory (1 Tim. 3:8-13).
3. **Growing churches have preaching that exalts Jesus Christ and His word**, that proclaims the "whole counsel of God," and that encourages and challenges, in a bold but loving way, everyone to draw nearer to God (2 Tim. 4:2-4; Acts 20:27; Eph. 4:15).
4. **Growing churches have an educational program** that stimulates all to know more of God's word and to better apply its truth (2 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 4:12).
5. **Growing churches regard worship as a privilege** rather than a chore. The singing is enthusiastic, the Lord's Supper is thoughtfully observed, prayers are humbly and lovingly offered, and brethren give generously as they have been prospered. People bring their Bibles, in order to follow along during the sermon because they desire to better know God and His will for their lives (John 4:24; Psa. 116:12; Eph. 5:19; Jam. 5:16; 1 Cor. 16:1,2).
6. **Growing churches make guests feel at home.** Others can see the unity, warmth and love that exists within the congregation (Rom. 12:10; John 13:34,35).
7. **Growing churches make a diligent effort to teach the lost and to restore the fallen.** Visitation, Bible studies and outreach are constant (Acts. 5:42; Gal. 6:1,2).
8. **Growing churches keep up with their missionaries** by writing them letters, sending them good literature and encouraging them in their work (Phi. 4:14-20; 1 Cor. 3:9).
9. **Growing churches respond to goals and challenges** because every member is focused on glorifying Christ (1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17).
10. **Growing churches exhibit the mind of Christ**—They are humble, serving, loving and obedient to the Father (Phi. 2:5-11).

Does this sound like the congregation of which you are a part? Let's all work together to help this congregation grow even more!

2006

FOREST HILL

Sweetheart Banquet

For all senior members of
the Forest Hill Church of Christ

Saturday, February 18
6:00 P.M.

Hosted by the
Forest Hill Youth

TEACHER'S WORKSHOP

Dennis and Brenda Woods will conduct a workshop on Saturday, February 25, 2006 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the fellowship building. Dennis and Brenda publish the *Engraving Heavenly Truths* Bible School curriculum. All who are interested are encouraged to attend, especially our teachers and helpers. Bring a sack lunch with you.

WHY AM I A CHRISTIAN (Part Three)

Matthew Martin

Why am I a Christian? There are a lot of people who wear the name of Christ, but cannot seem to answer such a fundamental question. For the past few weeks I have tried to answer it in as simple a way as possible: because I *want* to be a Christian, because I *need* to be a Christian, and finally, because I *love* to be a Christian.

I AM A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE I LOVE TO BE

Being a Christian because I need to be, is a good answer. How many sermons about why one should become a Christian contain a point about the awfulness of hell? However, there is much more to it than that. I was not scared into converting to Christianity. One reason I became a Christian was because I saw how good the life was, not necessarily how bad the alternative was. Now that I am a Christian I don't see how anyone would *want* to leave such a life.

I love the fact that no matter where I am in the world, if a Christian is nearby, I am with family. How many of those "scientologists" can say that? How many Hindus, or Roman Catholics have that sense of family? In the world, if you have a problem, where does one turn: to himself. In the church, we turn to each other, like a family should.

I love the fact that no matter how many times I mess up, my brethren will always open their arms and welcome me back. Think about how many second chances will the world give, if any? Now consider the conversation between Peter and Christ:

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven (Mat. 18:21-22).

It is said that Jewish tradition taught that a person could be forgiven a maximum of three times. Peter perhaps thought he was doing good by increasing the number to seven. Jesus told him it was wrong to put any limit on forgiveness.

I love the fact that I can go directly to my Father's throne and commune with him, at any time. Roman Catholics say that communion with God is not possible unless you go through, either, a man (priest) or a woman (Mary) neither of whom are qualified to hear your needs or forgive your sins. The Christian has the power to let his petitions be made known unto God (Phi. 4:6). That is something to love.

Finally, I love the fact that, as a Christian, I can go to Heaven. The reason the second point is titled "because I *need* to be" and not "because I *have* to be" is because I don't technically *have* to be a Christian. I can choose hell. The problem with that is, no one who really understood hell would choose to go there. Still the choice exists. How thankful every Christian should be that we have the choice. All we have to do, is what God told us to do, and we can go to Heaven. And since I'm a Christian, I can go to Heaven, and that, I love.

Why am I a Christian? Most likely this article did not do justice to that question's answer. On the other hand, if you were to take every Christian's reason as to why they are, what they are, and if you were to compile them into categories, perhaps they would fit into three sections: because I want to be a Christian; because I need to be a Christian, and because I love to be a Christian.

Non-Profit
US POSTAGE
PAID
GERMANTOWN, TN
PERMIT #94

The Forest Hill News
Forest Hill Church of Christ
3950 Forest Hill Irene Road
Germantown, TN 38125
Address Service Requested