

## ULTIMATE OPPOSITES

Here are 4 ultimate opposites: (1) being made sin vs. being made the righteousness of God (2) becoming a curse vs. having every spiritual blessing (3) being made the ultimate in unwholeness, being whipped and killed vs. being healed, whole, perfectly sound (4) experiencing total poverty, being stripped of every earthly thing to the point of being naked vs. having the riches in glory.

Jesus experienced every one of the bad things mentioned so we could experience everyone of the good things mentioned. Due to our sin we deserved every one of those bad things, but Jesus substituted for us by experiencing the bad for us so we would not have to. This is God's love and mercy. Each one will now be examined in more detail with supporting scriptures from the word of God.

(1) For God made Jesus who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Jesus (see 2 Cor. 5:21). We are made righteous not by of self effort, it is through faith in Jesus (see Plp. 3:9). Jesus' resurrection from the dead makes all this possible. We are made new creations (2 Cor. 5:17).

(2) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written "cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit by faith (Gal. 3:13-14). Jesus has blessed us with every spiritual blessing (see Eph. 1:3). Again, it is through faith in Jesus that we receive these blessings.

(3) Jesus Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed (see 1 Pet. 2:24). The stripes and the crucifixion were the ultimate opposite of health and wholeness. Sickness is like a scourging. By faith that this is one of the benefits of Jesus' atonement for us, we put it on and partake of it. See also Acts 3:16.

(4) (2 Cor. 8:9) For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Plp. 4:19). Jesus bore our poverty by taking on complete poverty on the cross. He substituted for us having to experience that. Again by faith we are able to take on the riches in glory in Christ Jesus. We follow the Holy Spirit's leading and blessings of all types come upon us.

Once one understands the ultimateness of Jesus' sacrifice, then one can believe in its ultimate effect of goodness in these 4 areas.