

# **THE SUBSTITUTE**

"For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:21

The modern view of the death of Jesus is that He died for our sins out of sympathy for us. Yet the Reality is, (the New Testament says) is that He took our sin on Himself not out of sympathy, but because of His identification with us. "For he has made him to be sin for us " Our sins are removed because of the death of Jesus, and the only explanation for His death is His obedience to His Father, not out of sympathy for us. We are acceptable to God not because we have obeyed, or because we have promised to give up things, but because of the death of Jesus, there is no other reason.

We say that Jesus Christ came to reveal the fatherhood and the loving kindness of God, but the New Testament says, "The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, look, the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29, KJV. And the revelation of the fatherhood of God is revealed only to those to whom Jesus has been introduced as Savior.

In speaking to the world, Jesus Christ never referred to Himself as One who revealed the Father, but He spoke instead . . . "If I had not come and been their teacher they would have had no sin; but now they have no reason to give for their sin. He who has hate for me has hate for my Father. If I had not done among them the works which no other man ever did, they would have had no sin; but now they have seen, and they have had hate in their hearts for me and my Father." John 15:22-24. John 14:9, where Jesus said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father," was spoken to His disciples. That Christ died for me, and therefore I am completely free from penalty, is never taught in the New Testament. What is taught in the New Testament is that "He died for all" (2 Corinthians 5:15)— not, "He died my death"— and that through identification with His death I can be freed from sin, and have His very righteousness imparted as a gift to me. The substitution, which is taught in the New Testament, is twofold— "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, (the once and for all substitute) that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." The teaching is not Christ died for me unless I am determined to have Christ formed in me "My children, of whom I am again in birth-pains till Christ is formed in you," Galatians 4:19.

Adapted from Oswald Chambers "My Utmost For His Highest".

THE FLIP SIDE

# THE SUN AND THE MOON

MEWITHOUTYOU

Daniel broke the king's decree,  
Peter stepped from the ship to the sea  
there was hope for Job like a cut down tree,  
I hope that there's such hope for me  
dust be on my mind's conceptions  
and anything I thought I knew each word of my lips' description,  
and on all that I compare to You  
[the preference of the sun was to the south side of the farm I  
planted to the north in a terra-cotta pot blind as I'd become, I  
used to wonder where you are- these days I can't find where  
you're not!]  
mine's been a yard carefully surface level tended  
foxes burrowed underground my gardening so highly self-  
recommended,  
what could I have done but let you down? the sun and the moon,  
I want to see both worlds as One! mine's been a vivid story,  
dimly remembered  
and by the hundredth time it's told, halfway true of bad  
behavior well engendered what good is each good thing we think  
we do?  
[find a friend and stay close and with a melting hear tell them  
whatever you're most ashamed of- our parents have made so  
many mistakes, but may we forgive them and forgive ourselves]  
the sun and the moon are my Father's eyes (x1,000)