

## SUBSTITUTION: JESUS DIED IN MY PLACE

### I. Isaiah 53:4-6 1 Peter 2:24-25 Galatians 3:10-14 2 Corinthians 5:21

**A. In Stroudsburg, PA there's a grave of a Civil War soldier whose stone bears the words: "Abraham Lincoln's substitute." Because thousands of men were dying in battle, President Lincoln chose one soldier to honor as his personal substitute, symbolizing the harsh reality that many were dying so that others might live.**

**B. Today I want to talk about Substitution--how Jesus died in our place. Charles Spurgeon said:** "There is no doctrine that fires my soul with such delight as that of substitution. Substitution is the very marrow of the whole Bible. It is the soul of salvation. It is the essence of the gospel. We ought to saturate all our sermons with it, for it is the lifeblood of a gospel ministry." **(So let's go to the Scriptures and let them speak to us...)**

**C. Isaiah 53:4-6 (ESV) foretold Christ as our substitute 700 years in advance:**  
*4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

**D. In 1 Peter 2:24-25 (ESV) Peter had Isaiah 53 in mind when he wrote: *24 He Himself (Jesus) 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. 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.***

**E. Galatians 3:13 (ESV) from a week ago: *13 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..."***

**F. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) is the Gospel in a nutshell (bombshell): *21 God made Him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (My sin-disease for His cure! My death-curse for His eternal life! My unworthy standing for His right-standing! The Bread & Cup remind us.)***

**G. Charles Spurgeon once again:** "In one word the great fact on which the Christian's hope rests is substitution. The vicarious **(substitutionary; in-place-of-us)** sacrifice of Christ for the sinner, Christ being made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him, Christ offering up a true and proper substitutionary sacrifice in the place of as many as the Father gave Him, who are recognized by their trusting in Him. This is the cardinal fact of the gospel." **(The Bread & Cup remind us.)**

**H. From his 1989 sermon, "The Suffering Jesus: Our Substitute and Shepherd," John MacArthur puts the matter of substitution this way:** "...Whether you're talking about redemption, justification, reconciliation; whether you're talking about the removal of sin and transgression, whether you're talking about propitiation or covering--all of those are corollaries in a sense to the great truth of substitution, that Christ took our place on the cross... To put it as simply as I can put it, if Christ is not my substitute, then I still occupy the place of a condemned sinner. If my sins and my guilt are not transferred to Him and He does not take them, then they

remain with me. If He did not deal with my sins, then I must deal with them. If He did not bear my penalty, then I must bear it. There is no other possibility. It is either Him or me... The bottom line is this: either Christ took my sins and bore them or I will. Either He paid the penalty for my sin, or I will pay it in hell forever."

**I. Several events that took place with Jesus are doubly potent. He heals a blind man or raises a dead person and His Deity is mightily confirmed. But these actual events often serve as prophetic metaphors that convey overarching Gospel truths and realities. The account of Barabbas is a great example. This takes place during Jesus' trial...**

**J. Matthew 27:15-26 (ESV) 15** *Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. 16* *And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. 17* *So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18* *For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered Him up. 19* *Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man, for I have suffered much because of Him today in a dream." 20* *Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. 21* *The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22* *Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let Him be crucified!" 23* *And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let Him be crucified!" 24* *So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to it yourselves." 25* *And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" (One of the most frighteningly cryptic verses in all Scripture!) 26* *Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered Him to be crucified.*

**K. Jesus died in place of Barabbas. What Barabbas ever thought of this has long been the tales of fiction, even a movie in 1961 starring Anthony Quinn as Barabbas. But it is not a stretch to say Barabbas in many ways represents each of us as Jesus most certainly died in our place too! The Bread & Cup remind us...**

**L. There's an old story about two brothers, the older one God-fearing and virtuous and the younger one rebellious, corrupt, and given to violence. One evening as the elder brother sat at home, his younger brother burst through the door with his clothes covered in blood. He said he'd killed a man and the police were closing in. The older brother instructed the younger to exchange clothes with him and soon the police arrived and took the innocent brother into custody. Brought before the judge, the innocent brother refused to deny the accusations. The evidence implicated him and the judge reluctantly sentenced the innocent brother to death. The accused had one request; that a note be given to his younger brother right after the execution. The court agreed. It read, "I died in your place, in your bloody garment, for your guilt and shame. This is also what Christ has done for you!" (The Bread & Cup remind us...)**

**\* Pray and Serve Communion...**

**\* 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (AMP) will take us home: 5** *For there is [only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus, 6* *who gave Himself as a ransom [a substitutionary sacrifice to atone] for all, the testimony given at the right and proper time.*

## **Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff**

### **Isaiah 53:4-6 (ESV)**

**4** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. **5** But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

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**24** 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. **25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### **Galatians 3:13 (ESV)**

**13** 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..."

### **2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)**

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### **1 Timothy 2:5-6 (AMP)**

**5** For there is [only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave Himself as a ransom [a substitutionary sacrifice to atone] for all, the testimony given at the right and proper time.

### **Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

“There is no doctrine that fires my soul with such delight as that of substitution. Substitution is the very marrow of the whole Bible. It is the soul of salvation. It is the essence of the gospel. We ought to saturate all our sermons with it, for it is the lifeblood of a gospel ministry.”

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"...Whether you're talking about redemption, justification, reconciliation; whether you're talking about the removal of sin and transgression, whether you're talking about propitiation or covering--all of those are corollaries in a sense to the great truth of substitution, that Christ took our place on the cross... To put it as simply as I can put it, if Christ is not my substitute, then I still occupy the place of a condemned sinner. If my sins and my guilt are not transferred to Him and He does not take them, then they remain with me. If He did not deal with my sins, then I must deal with them. If He did not bear my penalty, then I must bear it. There is no other possibility. It is either Him or me... The bottom line is this: either Christ took my sins and bore them or I will. Either He paid the penalty for my sin, or I will pay it in hell forever."

- John MacArthur, Sermon titled, *"The Suffering Jesus: Our Substitute and Shepherd,"* June 11, 1989.

### **In My Place**

by Matt Damico

God in heaven, high and holy, / Measure of all good and beauty,  
Who can stand before the fire of holiness?

Sinners here so poor and needy, / Who would come and clear the guilty?  
If you numbered all our sins, Lord, who could stand?

Chorus:

In my place He stood,  
All my debt nailed to the wood.  
All my stains washed white  
By the blood of Christ, my life.

Justice satisfied at Cal'vary; / Sin there silenced by His mercy.  
Where, O death, is your reply to Christ, our King?

Saints, forgiven, sing to Jesus;  
Bow before the Lamb slain for us.  
Hallelujah to the Savior evermore!

Chorus:

In my place He stood,  
All my debt nailed to the wood.  
All my stains washed white  
By the blood of Christ, my life.

### **Bonus Stuff**

**"In My Place" - Matt Damico - Kenwood Music**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohS-y4i17V8>

**Don't Replace the "Substitute" - Trevin Wax - The Gospel Coalition**  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/dont-replace-the-substitute/>

**The Day Became Night - Barabbas Movie Excerpt (1961) with Anthony Quinn**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpEPTsYD\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpEPTsYD_o)

### **2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (AMP)**

**14** For the love of Christ controls and compels us, because we have concluded this, that One died for all, therefore all died; **15** and He died for all, so that all those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and was raised for their sake.

### **1 John 3:16 (NLT)**

**16** We know what real love is because Jesus gave up His life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

### **Quote by John Calvin**

“This is our acquittal: the guilt that held us liable for punishment has been transferred to the head of the Son of God... We must, above all, remember this substitution, lest we tremble and remain anxious throughout life--as if God’s righteous vengeance, which the Son of God has taken upon Himself, still hung over us... To take away all cause for enmity and to reconcile us utterly to Himself, He wipes out all evil in us by the expiation set forth in the death of Christ; that we, who were previously unclean and impure, may show ourselves righteous and holy in His sight.”

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Vol. 2, p.p. 506, 510.

### **Quote by Leon Morris**

“Redemption is substitutionary, for it means that Christ paid that price that we could not pay, paid it in our stead and we go free. Justification interprets our salvation judicially.

As the New Testament sees it, Christ took our legal liability, took it in our stead. Reconciliation means the making of people to be at one by the taking away of the cause of hostility. In this case, the cause is sin and Christ removed that cause for us. We could not deal with sin, He could and did, and did it in such a way that it is reckoned to us. Propitiation points us to the removal of the divine wrath and Christ has done this by bearing the wrath for us. It was our sin which drew it down. It was He who bore it. Was there a price to be paid, He paid it. Was there a victory to be won, He won it. Was there a penalty to be borne, He bore it. Was there a judgment to be faced, He faced it."

### **Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

"If you believe in Jesus, that is to say, if you trust Him, all the merits of Jesus are your merits, are imputed to you; all the sufferings of Jesus are your sufferings. Every one of His merits is imputed to you. You stand before God as if you were Christ because Christ stood before God as if He were you--He in your stead, you in His stead. Substitution! That is the word! Christ the Substitute for sinners--Christ standing for men and bearing the thunderbolts of the divine opposition to all sin, He "being made sin for us who knew no sin." Man standing in Christ's place, and receiving the sunlight of divine favor, instead of Christ."

### **Quote by John Stott**

"The concept substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which belong to man alone."

### **Quote by J.C. Ryle**

"Christ would have lived, and taught, and preached, and prophesied, and wrought miracles in vain, if He had not crowned all by dying for our sins as our Substitute! His death was our life. His death was the payment of our debt to God. Without His death we should have been of all creatures most miserable."

### **Excerpt from J.I. Packer (Packer Quoting Luther)**

Martin Luther wrote: *"All the prophets did foresee in Spirit that Christ should become the greatest transgressor, murderer, adulterer, thief, rebel, blasphemer, etc., that ever was or could be in all the world. For He, being made a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world is not now an innocent person and without sins...but a sinner."* He was, of course, talking about the imputing of our wrongdoing to Christ as our substitute.

Luther continues: *"Our most merciful Father...sent His only Son into the world and laid upon Him...the sins of all men saying: Be thou Peter that denier; Paul that persecutor, blasphemer and cruel oppressor; David that adulterer; that sinner which did eat the apple in Paradise; that thief which hanged upon the cross; and briefly be thou the person which hath committed the sins of all men; see therefore that thou pay and satisfy*

*for them. Here now comes the law and saith: I find Him a sinner...therefore let Him die upon the cross. And so He setteth upon Him and killeth Him. By this means the whole world is purged and cleansed from all sins."*

The presentation of the death of Christ as the substitute exhibits the love of the cross more richly, fully, gloriously, and glowingly than any other account of it. Luther saw this and gloried in it. He once wrote to a friend: "Learn to know Christ and Him crucified. Learn to sing to Him, and say, 'Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am Your sin. You have taken upon Yourself what is mine and given me what is Yours. You became what You were not, so that I might become what I was not.'"

What a great and wonderful exchange! Was there ever such love?

- J.I. Packer, *Your Father Loves You*, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986.

### **George Vandeman on Substitution (The Louis Slotin Story)**

It was May 21, 1946. The place - Los Alamos. A young and daring scientist was carrying out a necessary experiment in preparation for the atomic test to be conducted in the waters of the South Pacific at Bikini.

He had successfully performed such an experiment many times before. In his effort to determine the amount of U-235 necessary for a chain reaction--scientists call it the critical mass--he would push two hemispheres of uranium together. Then, just as the mass became critical, he would push them apart with his screwdriver, thus instantly stopping the chain reaction. But that day, just as the material became critical, the screwdriver slipped! The hemispheres of uranium came too close together. Instantly the room was filled with a dazzling bluish haze. Young Louis Slotin, instead of ducking and thereby possibly saving himself, tore the two hemispheres apart with his hands and thus interrupted the chain reaction.

By this instant, self-forgetful daring, he saved the lives of the seven other persons in the room. As he waited for the car that was to take him to the hospital, he said quietly to his companion, 'You'll come through all right. But I haven't the faintest chance myself.' It was only too true. Nine days later he died in agony.

Nineteen centuries ago the Son of the living God walked directly into sin's most concentrated radiation, allowed Himself to be touched by its curse, and let it take His life . But by that act He broke the chain reaction. He broke the power of sin.

- George Vandeman, *Planet in Rebellion*.

### **Quote by Ajith Fernando**

"Religion says, 'attain'; the gospel says, 'obtain.' Religion says, 'attempt'; the gospel says, 'accept.' Religion says, 'try'; the gospel says, 'trust.' Religion says, 'do this'; the gospel says, 'it is done.'"

- Ajith Fernando, *The Supremacy of Christ*, p. 144.