

Multiple surprises

During my thirty years working in law courts there was never a law allowing a guilty person's penalty to be transferred to a totally innocent person.

So God did something totally unknown in any law codes or legal systems of any nation on earth – shifting the penalty for your sins and mine on to Jesus, the sinless Son of God.

How breathtaking, how amazing – Jesus becoming our sin-bearer. It's beyond anything the world has ever seen – biggest surprise in all human history.

Notice, **first**, if we accept what he did for us, we are released from the result we deserve for our sins – eternal separation from God.

Second, when we repent of our sins, there's yet another provision. God then *justifies* us! See Romans 5.1. Through such an undeserved promotion we are now raised to this totally new status – “*just as if I'd never sinned!*”

We can only marvel at this far-reaching outcome – Jesus not only bearing our sins but, as well, our being declared *just!*

Third, God has yet one further surprise. If we accept his forgiveness, he says, “I will forget their sins!” Hebrews 8.12.

Have you accepted these remarkable gifts? Thanked God for his powerful acts of love?

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For God to declare us justified, what must we repentant sinners do? Nothing. We are “justified freely by his grace.” Romans 3.24.

Ken Packer