



Pastor's Page

Blessed in a Barbers shop

“Hello Mr Vicar” the hairdresser said as I walked into his salon for my ‘short back and sides’. As I sat down for my treatment he was just launching into his first topic of conversation when a lady burst into the shop and said “I came in to thank you” then continued “it was my car that was parked on those double yellow lines right outside your front door”. As the conversation developed it was obvious (partly because my hairdresser told me!) that he had managed to persuade a policeman not to book this woman who was illegally parked outside his shop. I’m not quite sure how he did it but I don’t think either bribery or corruption was involved! After sharing a few more stories with both of us about her brushes with the law she thanked the barber again gave him a big kiss then left! (Well it beats just chatting about the weather!)

As we continued the conversation and I thought about what he’d done I realised that he had stepped into a situation to rescue this woman from the penalty of her wrongdoing. I was impressed and challenged by his thoughtful deed and quite pleased with the haircut too! In some small way his action mirrored (no pun intended) the work of Christ on the cross on Good Friday. The bible says about Jesus “he was pierced for our transgressions he was crushed for our iniquities the punishment that brought us peace was upon him and by his wounds we are healed”. So Christ did more, he actually bore the punishment himself that we deserve. He became sin for us! “God made him who had no sin to become sin for us so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” This is what C.S. Lewis described as “the great exchange” our sin for his righteousness. There was a great transaction going on at Calvary as Christ bore the sins of the world.

And because of this sacrificial death and the wonderful resurrection we can be saved from our sins and have a relationship with God that will last forever. This is indeed good news for you and me. But the Easter message is not just about me and Jesus (or you and Jesus) the bible also says “that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sin against them” This is indeed good news for the world. Ever since the first human beings rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden the world has been dislocated (out of sync) from its creator but through Christ’s death and resurrection God is bringing the world back to himself. As John Rackley says “As God once called life out of nothing so through resurrection God called life out of death. Easter is a time to celebrate the creation glory of God. This glory is seen in a human being fully alive – Christ the image of God in risen form” And for those who are *‘in Christ Jesus’* who put their trust in this ‘Man of Sorrows’ (who is also the ‘King of Glory’) Paul says there is no condemnation (Christ has dealt with that) no alienation from God (Christ has reconciled us to him) and no separation from his love (Romans 8:31-38) And God has not only rescued us from sin and death he has also entrusted us with this great message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:19)

That lady who burst into the hairdressers yesterday was obviously very grateful to my hairdresser for rescuing her from a parking fine - how much more grateful should we be for all that Christ has rescued us from? Let’s show this by living for him and sharing with others the Good news about him

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