

"He Took My Place"

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Picture yourself in the dark streets of medieval Europe... You have been sentenced and tried for a crime that calls for execution. As you approach the public execution spot where in just minutes your head is going to be dramatically separated from the rest of your body, your heart beats out of your chest. You are helpless... Scared... Beyond emotional descriptives... And as the headsman pulls back for the kill and you take what you think is your last breath, someone in the audience shouts: "Don't do it... I will take their place!"

At this sound, the scene begins to unfold in your favor. The headsman doesn't kill you but rather lets you go freely. The man who shouted this runs up to the platform and stands in your place. He even announces before the entire city that he wants to grant you as the heir of all his estates... The onlooking crowd is completely shocked as they begin to think out loud: "What in the world is this guy doing? He is completely innocent of this crime, and he is the richest man in all the land... You mean to tell me; this no-good criminal is going to get to walk away alive and have all this man's wealthy assets?"

This would be quite the scenario, wouldn't it? From death to life... From poor to rich... From despair to ecstatic joy... All because someone volunteered to switch places with you. Well, I have great news for you dear brother or sister, this is what Jesus has done for you! Yes, Jesus has taken your place! You deserved execution because of your sin... You deserved the wrath of God to be poured out upon you... You deserved separation from God's presence... You deserved to suffer for your mistakes done in the flesh... Yet, Jesus in love chose to be obedient to the Father's will, and He graciously stood in your place as your Savior!

And because Jesus stood in your place at the cross, you now can have a place at the Father's table! In other words, Jesus' substitution not only grants you a way out of trouble, but it also grants you a way into the throne room of grace. Like the man in the fictional medieval illustration, in Jesus the One who took your place, you receive Jesus' life in the face of death. In Christ Jesus, you receive an eternal inheritance with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places (Romans 8:17; Ephesians 1:3). You walk away as the blessed one as Christ took your curse upon Himself (Galatians 3:13).

This sounds almost too good to be true, right? But it's not, this is the saving gospel of God! Christ your Savior! Christ your Sin-Bearing Substitute! Christ your Righteousness! And so please, look to Jesus... Believe, know, and rejoice in the great truth that: "He took my place!"

Respect the Blood,
Dalton Mathis