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“Our Unimpeachable Savior” 2 Corinthians 5:21

We cannot help but be caught up with all the recent events surrounding our West Virginia Supreme Court. The breaking of the story regarding the spending and other activities of the justices. The federal case involving one of the judges. The impeachment proceedings and debates in the House of Delegates. All these are certainly riveting our attention.

We all have varied responses to these events. Anger. Disappointment. Political considerations. Anxiety regarding what the possible fallout might be. In the midst of all the turmoil aroused by these events at the statehouse it will do us well to consider the biblical or spiritual lessons we might glean from these events. Pondering the issue of impeachment can point us to some of the grandest gospel truths found in God's Word. This can give us joy and assurance even in the middle of such challenging events in the capitol!

What are the spiritual truths we might see as we contemplate these recent events? First, each one of us is “impeachable” when we stop and consider our sinful condition before our Holy God. Second, there is only one person who could ever be considered “unimpeachable” – Jesus Christ – our sinless Savior. One amazing Bible passage points to these vital truths:

21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor 5:21

This may be Paul's most succinct statement about the meaning of the Gospel. This verse describes what God did for us through Jesus Christ. We note first that God did this. Sending His Son to die in the place of sinners was the Father's plan of salvation. “He (the Father) made Him (the Son) to be sin...”

Then we see that God did this **for us** – “**On our behalf...**” This is purely an act of God's grace, something we do not deserve. God loved us, so He sent His Son to suffer and die for us. It is only through what Christ has done for us that we can be made right with God, to “**become the righteousness of God**”.

This simple verse contains the greatest Gospel truths taught throughout the Bible. **Imputation** – the fact that our sin was credited to Christ while His righteousness and goodness is credited to those who place their faith in Him. **Substitution** – Christ came and suffered and died in our place. **Justification by**

faith – It is when we repent and place our faith in Christ that this “great exchange” takes place.

Now let us consider how the recent events of the impeachment proceedings might help us understand the truths found in this verse.

We Are All “Impeachable” before Our Holy God

The word impeach means to bring an accusation against; to charge with a crime or misdemeanor, specifically to charge a public official with misconduct. It also refers to the removal of a public official from office because of such misconduct.

The Bible brings charges against every one of us of our sin against a Holy God. Each and every one of us is “impeachable” before Him. We have all sinned and fallen short of His glory. There are many terms used in the Bible to describe our sin. They describe how we “miss the mark” of holiness. We trespass or offend God's commands. We rebel against God and His ways. We err and disobey. We fail to listen to His instructions. We forget and are ungrateful for His blessings.

Perhaps the simplest way for us grasp our own “impeachability” is to consider the Ten Commandments and test ourselves according to them. Have we always placed God first and foremost in our lives? How many lies have we told? Have we ever blasphemed by using God's name in vain? Have we ever been angry with another (committed murder in our heart)? Have we ever had a lustful thought (committed adultery in our

heart)? Have we ever desired the possessions or position of another? With just these few commandments listed we find ourselves “impeached” – charged with failing to live up to God’s standard of Holiness and found guilty before Him.

Part of the controversy of the impeachment process has been whether certain actions or activities raised to the level of impeachable offences. The result of the impeachment process may be removal from office as the justices face hearings before the Senate. This is certainly a harsh punishment!

The result of our sin before a Holy God is to be sent away from His presence – to be condemned and punished for our sins forever. We struggle with this as we consider whether our sins raise to the level of such punishment. It is only when we realize the infinite holiness of God that we understand the seriousness of our sin. We take to heart the words of the Puritan writer:

“Let me never forget that the heinousness of sin lies not so much in the nature of the sin committed, as in the greatness of the Person sinned against.”

(Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers)

We must come to the place where we see our own sinfulness before God. We plead “guilty” to the charges brought against us. At this point we realize our need for a Savior which brings us to the second great truth.

Jesus is the “Unimpeachable” One

Our verse tells us that Christ, “*who knew no sin*” was made to be sin on our behalf. Jesus Christ was sinless and perfect. This was certainly true of His divine nature. It is also true of His human nature as Christ came and lived a perfect life keeping flawlessly God’s law. Jesus was “*holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners*” (Hebrews 7:26). He “*committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth*”. He did not revile or threaten but trusted God in midst of the greatest of unfair events (1 Peter 2:21-23). “*In Him there was no sin*” (1 John 3:5). At His trial Jesus was “unimpeachable” as false witnesses had to be brought in against Him. Even Pilate had to say, “*I find no guilt in Him*” (John 19:6). Jesus was the sinless, spotless Lamb of God – innocent, pure, and without sin. That’s what make the teaching of this verse – the truth of the Gospel – so amazing.

Jesus was “Impeached” for Us

Paul explains how God “*made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*” In the context of

2 Corinthians Paul describes his ministry as one of the reconciliation of sinful people with their Holy God. Paul begs his readers to make sure they are reconciled to God. They (and we) can do so because the sinless Savior came and was made sin for us! That Jesus was “made to be sin” does not mean that He actually sinned. It means He was treated as if He had. We are the ones that sinned, but our sin was credited to Him. Then His righteous – His goodness, purity, and obedience – are credited to those who put their faith in Him.

“On the cross, God treated Christ as if He had committed all the sins of every sinner who would ever believe, so that He could treat believers as if they had lived Christ’s perfect life.”

Pastor John MacArthur

Peter describes what Christ did for us as well:

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit... 1 Peter 3:18

We deserved to be “impeached”, to be charged and found guilty of our sins and to be removed from the presence of God forever. But Jesus was “impeached” on our behalf. He was charged with our sin and took the punishment for that sin upon Himself. When we recognize our sinfulness, turn, and put our faith in Christ we experience this great exchange – our sin for His righteousness.

Conclusion

There are many other spiritual lessons we might draw from these recent events. We may learn not to put too much faith in fallible people or systems. We certainly should not be too surprised when those people or systems fail.

But let these events point us to this great gospel truth: The Unimpeachable One was impeached on our behalf, so that we might be made right with God when we trust in Him. In this truth we can find joy and assurance so matter the events in the statehouse our in our lives!

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, August 16

12:00 Senate President’s Conference Room
(Located near Senate President’s Offices)