

Glad He Sees the Sinner

We have an uneasy relationship with the word SINNER

- We get offended if we are called one
- We offend others -using the word like a club rather than pointing to forgiveness - **go & sin no more**
- We avoid talking about it → it feels confrontational, harsh or judgmental,
- We sugarcoat it, calling our sins —“mistakes,” “flaws”, “shortcomings”, “struggles”, “imperfections”
- We rename them “white lies” - “sleeping together” - “just venting” - “having issues with someone”

He sees the Sinner→ Zaccheus/thief, adulteress/sin no more, lame man/ sins are forgiven -- he saw me

- **Illustration** Dr diagnosis of cancer, “tell me” **truth about my condition is the first step to healing**

BUT...Here is a perspective that makes me want to acknowledge it in my life...

1Ti 1:15-16 NLT This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**”—and I am the worst of them all. 16 But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

- Sinners need saving -- and all of us are sinners
- that puts us in the center of His purpose... Realize my sin moved Jesus to leave heaven to rescue me
- He saved the worst sinner of all - so there is hope for all of us
- the only response is to **believe** in him - to **receive** eternal life (the worst sinner can receive eternal life)

What does this have to do with Easter → Everything...

1Co 15:1-6 ESV Now I would remind you, brothers, of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you **received**, in which you stand, 2 and **by which you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you--unless you **believed** in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received [SLIDE] that **Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures**, 4 that he was **buried**, that he was **raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures**, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

- **How did he save us from sin? death, burial and resurrection→ If we receive it and believe it**

DEATH proved he took our sin --- death only comes as a result of sin - he was sinless unable to die

- Rom 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 2 Cor 5:21 – “For our sake **he made him** to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him **we might become the righteousness** of God.”
 - EXAMPLE - someone immune from a virus, but intentionally injects himself with it

RESURRECTION is proof that sin was paid for - death could no longer hold Him - sin was paid for

- Rom 4:24-25 ESV [righteousness] will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, 25 who was delivered up for our trespasses and **raised for our justification**.
- **1 Cor 15:17** – “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

He SAW our SIN → moved to act → took sin upon Himself, died as our substitute, rose & offers an exchange
The resurrection, is proof positive that the penalty for sin has been satisfied - you can have life and live life
John 11:25–26 – “*I am the resurrection and the life...Do you **believe** this?*”

John 1:12 says: ‘But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.’