



# NO GREATER JOY

VOLUME 2  
ISSUE 9

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## Sitting Down Inside

By Michael Pearl

Several times I have been asked by parents how they can make a child sit in a car seat when he or she refuses to do so. Understand, our goal is not just to MAKE them sit in the car seat. Our goal is to TRAIN them to cheerfully comply. The parent is obviously big enough to force the child to sit in the car seat. But like one older kid said on a different occasion, "I may be sitting down outside, but I am still standing up inside." Our desire is not just to win the contest. We want to train them to sit down inside. As we look at this, we are not just discussing car seats; we are uncovering a principle which translates into all areas of child training.

When a child is only occasionally rebellious, even in a single area, you can be sure that you have a rebellious child. Don't be deceived by the fact that they are mostly obedient. There are many areas wherein a child finds it convenient to obey. Out of pure selfishness a child may decide to give up his own will, possibly to avoid the hassle that is sure to follow. But when an issue comes along that is meaningful to him, he may then manifest his rebellion. A child who obeys 9 times out of 10 is not just 10% rebellious. He is a 100% rebel who expresses his rebellion 10% of the time. Rebellion itself is a state of mind, not an event. It is a condition of heart, not a condition of circumstance. If a child loses his temper it is because he had one to lose. When children burst into anger they are just dumping the

load they regularly carry. We want to treat the cause not the symptom. A switch may treat the immediate symptom, but unless it is combined with effective training, it will not treat the source problem—the child's heart.

Our desire as parents is to build character in our children. The power-play by itself is insufficient. We can not forcibly invade the command and control room of their hearts. It is their sacred ground. No one, not even God, can get into the recesses of another person's soul, unless invited in. A parent may be spanking or intimidating a child into outward compliance while on the inside the child's rebellion is



Carmen Kennedy manages our foreign Bible Correspondence course distribution. She also spent two weeks at the Olympics distributing gospel literature.

actually growing .

**A mother told her story:** "Suzy has taken a notion that she doesn't want to ride in the car seat. Every time I tell her to get in she refuses. I have spanked her, and she stubbornly stands there unyielding. I tell her that we are not going unless she gets in, and she still refuses. I called my husband out and he spanked her three times, but still she stubbornly refused to get in the seat. If we forcibly put her in the seat, she bucks and screams in defiance. I just don't know what else to do. I feel guilty about further spanking."

I asked this mother what she did after threatening to leave Suzy at home. She said she had no other choice; they went to the store with Suzy triumphantly standing as usual.

**There are several preliminary things to consider:**

**First**, ask yourself, "Is Suzy's cry one of dread fear or one of angry rebellion?" Any parent will immediately know the difference. It is a slim possibility, but one you must first consider: could it be that she has developed some negative associations with car seats? If so, the following solution would not apply. I will not take the space to discuss the solution to so rare a possibility, but it would be the easier problem to address.

**Second**, note that up until this point the mother above has actually trained Suzy to rebel. The hollow threat to not allow her to go has convinced Suzy that her mother is a liar. Just two or three more screams and Suzy always wins. She has been trained to hold out against threats. She has also been taught that if she can just endure two or three more spankings she will eventually get

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## Sitting Down Inside

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her way. Her bottom is callused, but not as much as her soul.

**Third**, note that parents often depend on pain and threat alone to change Suzy's mind. She is supposed to be scared into compliance. However she has proven that she is tougher than either parent. Like a good rebel soldier, she can hold out against enemy torture and still maintain her pride. Her resolve is: "No one is going to break my spirit."

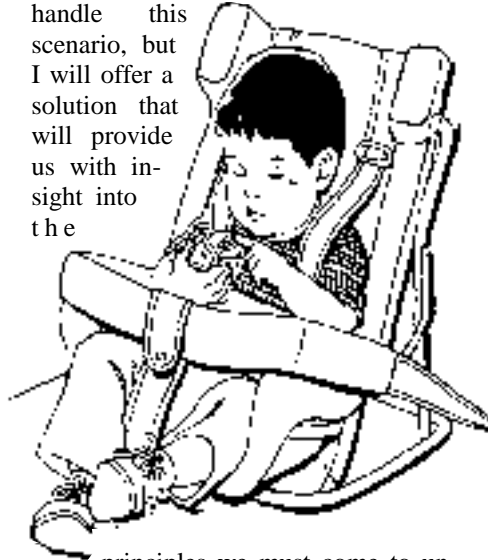
**Fourth**, note that in Suzy's mind the battle ground has actually moved from the car seat to personal autonomy. Suzy is fighting a battle against the very concept of authority. She is learning early to resist all rule of law and to do only that which meets her fancy. This is a serious problem. The parents have already lost not only the battle but the child. Because Suzy is yet young and the consequences of her rebellion can be contained or ignored, the immediate ramifications are minimal. But when she is fourteen, the parent will suddenly cry out, "Where did I go wrong?" You lost the whole battle when your little girl was only 18 months old. After that you were just feeding and coddling an unthankful rebel until his or her day of throwing off the yoke.

**Fifth**, if the spanking is not working, especially if you feel guilty about it, don't stick with a solution that doesn't solve the problem. Spanking is only a part of a larger plan of child training. If all the other ingredients are missing, and you wait until everything is out of control and then jump in with the rod, you are asking the rod, which is only a part, to do the job of the whole. If you are trying to put a wheel on an axle, at some point it may be necessary to utilize the hammer, but if you rely on the hammer alone, without first lining up the wheel, you will not only fail to mount the wheel, you may damage it so that it can never be mounted. When a hammer is needed it is indispensable. When it is not needed, it is a clumsy hindrance. Unless you

have a prior disposition against the very concept of the rod, or unless your thinking is clouded by anger or some other overriding emotion, you will surely do well to follow your own intuition concerning the appropriateness of the rod in each circumstance.

How might one appropriately deal with this situation? Keep in mind that we are wanting to knock at the door of the child's soul and cultivate in him or her a desire to please and to obey. If we don't get to the root, we have utterly failed. When we break rebellion in one area we have broken it all areas. The mind and heart must be persuaded, trained, conditioned, molded.

Certainly there is more than one way to effectively handle this scenario, but I will offer a solution that will provide us with insight into the



principles we must come to understand. The key to developing a creative solution is to understand the motivation and methodology of the child. The parent wants the child to sit in the seat for the sake of safety. The child does not want to sit in the seat because it is not as fun as standing. And then there is the element of autonomy. The rebel child intuitively recognizes the need to maintain an unbroken record of independence. To give in just once is to confirm the parent's decision to use the rod. It is to relinquish authority. Once the child has outwardly asserted her independence, she knows it is vital to all future confrontations to not yield her independence under threat. For the

very same reasons it is vital that you win.

But you have a secret weapon—the keys to the car. (Be grateful that she is not yet able to drive.) She not only wants to stand; she wants to stand while you take a wonderful trip to the store. You had the right idea when you threatened to leave her behind. But you were a cowardly liar. Here is the principle: Your act of training must deny her any gratification or success in her rebellion. **You must make all rebellion counterproductive.** You do this by determining what her goals are and by arranging circumstances to thwart her efforts. You must appear the winner. You must be indomitable, unassailable. You must be an unmoving rock of truth and righteousness. Your word must be written in stone, the "*law of the Medes and the Persians, which changeth not.*"

When she refuses to get into the car seat, give her five licks with a stinging switch. Calmly command her to get in. If she doesn't, repeat the switching. After about three times, if you are confident that two are three more switchings are not going to cause her to yield, calmly tell her that hereafter she will never be allowed to ride in the car unless she sweetly gets into it apart from threat or spanking. Of course, she thinks you are the same old liar, so she will resolutely determine to outmaneuver you. Take her inside and call someone you trust to sit with her while you go to the store. Regardless of her screams and threats, cheerfully leave her behind. When you return, be sure to have chocolate on your mouth and a smile on your face. Sing as you bring the groceries in, and be sure to forget to purchase the things she always persuades you to buy. Explain to her that you were having so much fun, and without her along to remind you, you just failed to buy the things she likes.

Don't nag her about it. If you keep raising the issue, it may harden her resolve to hold out. Go on about your daily routine as normal. Do things with her that are fun, and let her know

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# Carnal Husbands, Cranky Wives, and

By Debi Pearl

In our child training seminars there is always a time for questions and answers. It is during these times that we gain a grasp of your needs. As parents begin sharing their different experiences, I am amazed at the similarities. The testimonies go something like this: "We are a family of more than average discipline. We home school, are active in church, and have family devotions. We have trained and discipline the children from their youth, and I thought we were having good results until they got in their early teens."

Continuing, they tell us of the different ways their children have manifested their disrespect and dishonor. How can this happen? How can a parent do everything right and still suffer rebellion in their teenagers? Does that verse mean, *Train up a Child in the way he should go and when he is a teen he will be disrespectful, but when he is old will come back?*

Over the years, as I have listened to these mothers tell of their

similar experiences, the source of their problem has become clear to me. If they could be objective for just a moment, they too would be able to see the solution. To get to the root, I ask these mothers, "Does your husband do anything on a regular basis that you feel might be detrimental to the family?" Invariably they answer something like this: "YES, and I always knew it would weaken the family, and now this proves it." Then I ask, "How do you react? Do you meet eyes with the children and silently communicate your disappointment? Are they in any way aware of your martyrdom as you willing "die to yourself" in resignation to your husband's clumsy spirituality? Do you in any way indicate that you are praying he will assume his role as spiritual leader?"

When I ask such questions the



atmosphere of the room suddenly changes. The "strong spiritual women" look as if they lost their unction. How do they feel? Probably the same way they make their husbands feel—like a second class Christian.

Over the years I have heard many women speak in front of their husbands about how they are praying God will have His way in their families. Or they will brag about what a wonderful sermon that was and how they want that in their home. As I stand there listening, I am embarrassingly aware that their husbands are being reduced to carnal nincompoops.

The man can't complain that his wife doesn't obey him, because she does. He can't say she speaks evil toward him, because she doesn't. He can't fault her in any way. But he is often angry; he feels he is not respected and honored; he feels the fool. And somehow for all her years of faithful prayer, he never becomes a

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## Sitting Down Inside

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that you love her. Next day, get up excitedly talking about the trip the two of you are going to take today—someplace she likes to go. Walk to the car and prepare the car seat. Tell her to get in. If she refuses, spank her right there, one time, and then take her back in the house. Call the babysitter and go have a great time. Come home in a party mood with a busted balloon hanging limply on the end of a stick. Tell her you sure did miss her at the mall, but maybe she will be able to go next time. Repeat this each day, one spanking and a short admonition before returning her to the baby sitter, until she cheerfully gets into the seat with no complaint.

You have denied her success as a rebel. She has learned that to cross Mama is total futility. Mama is Lord; she knows what she is doing. No one bests Mama—except Daddy.

When she climbs into the car seat of her own volition, without being driven into it with a switch, you have conquered her soul with light. Rebellion is crushed under the foot of Divine government—in the hands of Mama.

In the unlikely possibility that she continues to refuse, after say two weeks, take the car seat inside the house and tell her to get in. If she refuses, calmly use minimal force to strap her in. Designate a length of time that she must sit there, and let her out when the time is up. Try to make it long enough for her to tire and cease rebelling (two or three hours). It is most ef-

fective if she is in a state of surrender when she is released. Repeat this until she grows out of the car seat or until she willingly gets in.

We have taken this thing to the absurd. You will never have a small child who continues her rebellion once she is convinced that it is futile.

One final warning: If you are torn up emotionally, harboring anger, pity, grief, sadness, or anything other than disinterested cheerfulness, the child may not surrender. By your upset you are sending a signal that her terrorist tactics are effective.

I once asked a man how he was able to train his dog so effectively. He replied, "Oh, you just have to be smarter than the dog." \*\*\*

# Missionary

Our daughter Rebekah, 22, and our son Nathan, 17, are now in New Guinea. It will be another month before their 1200 pounds of supplies arrive, but they took enough gear with them to manage until it arrives. We received several faxes from them before they went into the mountains. Everything was going according to schedule. Now that they are in the mountains, we will be out of touch with them until their radio arrives and is installed—probably a month or less.

While they were waiting in Mading, they went into the city park and began teaching the gospel in English and Pidgin. Rebekah said that a crowd of children and adults immediately sat down to listen. She carried with her a packet of Bi-

ble story pictures for just such a purpose. It is an immediate eye catcher in third world countries.

I do thank you for praying. Before joining Rebekah in the Kumboi tribe, Kathy Yailo was finishing her last week at the post office, where she has worked for the last ten years. A gang of the outlaws came in and put a gun on her, robbing her and the post office of all valuables. When people who were head hunters and cannibals only ten or twenty years ago come into the cities, they don't make very good citizens, unless they come to know the Lord. The cities of New Guinea are somewhat like the stereotype of the old west. If you apply for a ticket to New Guinea, the travel agents immediately begin warning you of the dangers. Large gangs will throw up road blocks and rob the public transportation. It is much safer in the remote tribes than it is in the cities.

Nathan had a very close call while attempting to swim in the sea. He is a strong swimmer. But he had no more than stepped into the water among the coral reefs than he was swept out to be repeatedly dashed from coral to coral. The fourth time it threw him up against a rock and coral bluff he was able to get a hand hold where he clung while the waves broke over him. After about five minutes the waves subsided enough for him to swim to safety. He crawled ashore trembling and exhausted with bruises and scrapes all over his body.

Keep praying. Satan would like to destroy this endeavor to give the Scripture to 10,000 people who have never heard. Your prayers can be the deciding element in this conquest against darkness. \*\*\*

# Carnal Hus-

(Continued from page 3)

mighty man of God. In front of the children, she patronizes him. She doesn't know it, and he can't explain it, but the kids grow up feeling it all the same. It reaps anger, frustration, belligerence, irritation in the dad, dislike among siblings, and, in teens, disrespect for their mother. The Scripture tells us *"Every wise woman buildeth her house; but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."*

The children are subtly being persuaded that the head of the house is not really the spiritual leader, and therefore not to be highly regarded—in fact he is a detriment to the growth of the family. No wonder when they become teens they treat their dad like the burden you have contrived him to be. Of course, when the children are young, Mom seems like a strong spiritual woman, but as they mature they look at her with the same critical eyes of judgment she has used on Dad. Every look of irreverence toward Dad is now multiplied and sent back her direction (Matt. 7:1-5). She has trained her children well in the folly of disre-

spect and irreverence. They might obey, because she has obeyed, but what is obedience without honor?

Mother, if you have a reputation as a fine Christian woman yet lose your children to bitterness, what have you gained? Will it be satisfaction enough to be able to blame your husband?

The first and the most important thing you will ever do as a mother in training your children is to reverence your husband, delight yourself in him, love to obey him, feel honored to be married to him, joy in his presence. In doing so, you are building up your house, you are creating a home, you are establishing a foundation. It is this first and most important ingredient in raising happy, obedient, creative, respectful children, children delighted to be part of the family. This kind of atmosphere in the home causes your children to love each other, to enjoy being with their own brothers and sisters.

Oh, your teens might see that you are not Mr. and Mrs. Perfect, but they will delight in the fact that their parents really like each other. It makes for a very happy, peaceful home life. It makes the promises found in the Bible become a reality. It is the reason some parents who seem to do everything wrong are still able to raise good teens,

while other parents who do everything right raise sour young people.

Ladies, we have in our grasp the opportunity to reverence our husbands, thus teaching our children how to reverence God. I can change eternity by choosing to delight myself in my husband, obeying him, loving him and causing him to stand before God free from the shackles of domestic condemnation. As Mike once said, "When a wife suggests that a husband take the lead, any leading he does after that is just following her suggestion." When you decide what course the family should take and then seek to bring your husband into compliance, you will not only spoil your marriage but your children as well.

If your husband is a 20% father and you make the children aware of your dissatisfaction, you will have 20% kids; but if you respect and honor your 20% husband, causing the kids to think you see him as 100%, you may have 100% kids. And a husband and father who is treated with honor and respect will rise to the calling and be more of the man he needs to be. \*\*\*

# 187 Countries receive the gospel

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The Church At Cane Creek, sent four of our own to spend 17 days in Atlanta during the Olympics distributing gospel literature in 78 different languages. Along with about thirty others, under the supervision of Milton Martin and Tom Gaudet, they were able to distribute several hundred thousand pieces of literature to a documented 187 different countries. Many of these countries are "closed" to the gospel. Each piece of literature included an appeal to receive a free Bible correspondence course. They have already received hundreds of requests from all over the world.

Just think, in three weeks we were able to take the gospel to 187 different countries. And keep in mind, the people who received this literature were some of the most influential and admired people in their countries. Pray that the seeds planted will be watered and bring forth much fruit.



**Grady Mange**



**Raymond Beachy**

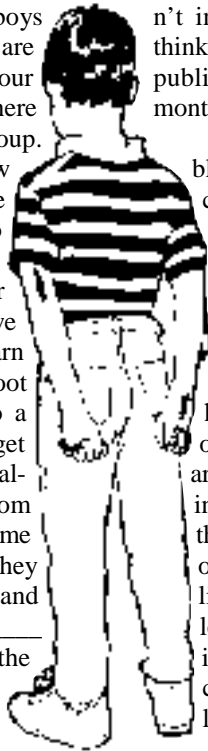
Jason Kennedy is shown at right, and his sister Carmen Kennedy is on the first page. The Church At Cane Creek contributed \$1,000.00 toward this endeavor. The rest of the expenses came out of their own pockets.

**Jason Kennedy looking on the fields, white unto harvest.**

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# Sunday School at Cane Creek

**F**ive to seven year old boys are like the rain, they are seldom convenient. In our church here at Cane Creek there are several boys in this age group. I have watched them grow from precious infants to cute babies to tumbling toddlers to talkative tykes. But by the time they are five, six, or seven they are... shall we say... unpredictable. You learn to view life from their three-foot perspective or you grow into a grouch. Just as you began to get adjusted to the strange personality of the other adult with whom you share your life, along came this exploding new soul. They were so cute and dependent, and now they are \_\_\_\_\_ (I am sorry I couldn't find the word. Either my thesaurus isn't big enough or they have-



n't invented the word yet. If you can think of the word, send it to me. I will publish the five best entries next month.)

We begin our church assemblies with everyone attending the children's meeting. The children sit together at the front and participate, while the adults observe. This past Sunday was typical. Prior to the meeting, two of the boys, six and seven years old, had gathered several fuzzy, horned worms. They were the envy of the other children as they went around allowing privileged peeks into their cupped hands. By the time the meeting started, I had lost track of their worm zoo. Then one of the little fellows was called forward to lead one of the songs. He was trying to lead "Jesus loves the little children" in a Chinese dialect, followed by the same song in Span-

ish. It was a job difficult enough without trying to wrangle a herd of wild worms. But when the song leader saw that he was having trouble, she must have thought it was his squirming hands that was the problem, so she knocked them down at his side.

Sitting closer than anyone else, I could see what the others could not. I watched this creepy creature slowly crawl up his arm. He was trying hard to stand still and maintain his composure. I don't know what was happening on his other side, but when one worm disappeared under his short sleeve, I was squirming myself. We both began to shiver about the same time. His eyes were rolling around like spilled apples in the back of a pickup truck. However, he finished his songs in good form, and then walked to his seat, where he commenced to dig through his clothes. I don't know if he ever recovered all the maverick worms, but seeing him endure that wild ordeal so calmly, I am convinced that we have the best six-year-old primitive missionary training program in the

## Man For

**T.J., a young man from our church, is in**

Laos, a country that does NOT receive missionaries of any kind, under any circumstances. He that hath ears, let him hear and understand: He is learning the language and has already established himself teaching his favorite English book to some young people who know English. He will soon begin teaching English in evening classes. He is making progress learning the native language.

This young man is doing a great work and is busy about his Father's work. The limited space we dedicate to his activities is not a reflection of the value we place on what he is doing. It is discretion. Don't forget him. \*\*\*

## Channel 23

*A modern Psalm taken from "The New International Unchristian Perversion."*

"The TV is my shepherd, I shall not want anything else. It maketh me to lie down on the sofa. It leadeth me away from the Scripture. It destroys my soul. It leadeth me in the paths of sex and violence for the sponsors sake, Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will enjoy the evil, for blood and sex they excite me. It's cable and remote they comfort me. It prepares a commercial before me in the presence of my children. It anoints my head with humanism, My coveting runneth over. Surely laziness and ignorance shall follow my family all

the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house watching TV forever."

But don't worry parents, as you know the TV doesn't have any influence on the children of parents who don't want it to influence them. That's why the sponsors only advertise products you have already decided to buy.

## We receive your letters and read every one of them.

In fact we read five or six to the church every week. It would take four full time workers just to answer all the letters, so obviously most of your letters will go unanswered, but they are valuable to us. We are greatly encouraged and enlightened. The articles I write and the material in my upcoming book will reflect the things you have shared in your letters. \*\*\*

You received this monthly newsletter from *The Church At Cane Creek*, a ministry of a Bible believing, missionary minded, local Church.

Michael and Debi Pearl, authors of *To Train Up A Child*, developed this newsletter in response to the many letters and questions on training children. You got on our mailing list by ordering one of our books. You will continue to receive this free newsletter as long as we are able to send it, or until you request to be removed from our mailing list. We are thankful when someone asks that their name be removed. It saves us money and time, and makes room for someone else who is interested.

The Pearls do not receive any remuneration from this ministry or from the sale of books. All money goes to the production of more books and newsletters or to the support of missionaries. Many of you have sent extra gifts to pay for the newsletter. It has been a great blessing. All gifts to this ministry are tax deductible.

If you do not find time to read this newsletter or if you do not wish to receive it, please drop us a note and let us know. We will remove your name from our mailing list. Otherwise you may continue to receive this publication every month for the next ten years, or until the Saints are raptured. Thank you. \*

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## Sunshine or

*Hand in hand, I've walked beside Him  
In the sunshine of my days.  
And with joy I've always followed  
Down the flower-strewn pathways.  
He has led me with his blessings  
Far from all my toil and care.  
O'er the mountain tops we've wandered  
Great the sweetness we have shared.  
But He pauses in the sunlight  
See Him pointing at the shade,  
Will I follow Him in darkness?  
In the hard times still obey?  
He is leading off the mountain  
To the valleys down below.  
Thorns and thistles in the pathway.  
He is saying, "Will you go?"  
"Will you follow through the shadows  
Gladly go where I lead,  
Finding souls that dwell in darkness  
So that they may walk with me?"  
So, looking in His eyes now,  
I rejoice to see the promise bright;  
He will never never leave me  
In the darkest hour of night.  
While we travel through the valley  
He's a loyal, faithful friend.  
Surely someday we'll go walking  
In the sunlight once again.*

### Child Training Seminars

S.E. IN and N.W. KY.	Sept 9-16
Georgia	Nov. 12-17
N.E Texas	Jan 14-18
(traveling from Dallas to Tyler, Lufkin, Houston)	
California	March 13-23

If you would like to schedule the Pearls while they are in your area, drop us a note including phone #, possible dates, place, and group.

# God made Jesus to be sin

## **A sinner by faith**

Kneeling in the garden, Jesus believed God and received the weight of sin. God “*made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (2 Cor. 5:21).*” God was willing to see Jesus as a sinner that He might be permitted to see us as righteousness. Jesus became what we are that we might become what He is.

By the imputing act of God, He became a sinful son of man so we could become sinless sons of God. It was a trade. He traded His righteousness for our sin. He then bore the consequences of our sin before God so that we can bear the consequences of His righteousness before God. He ascended the hill of Calvary so we could ascend Mount Zion. The God who “*calleth those things which be not as though they were*” called His Son something He wasn’t—a sinner—so that He could call us something we are not—righteous. “*Blessed is the*

*man to whom the Lord will not impute sin (Rom. 4:82).*”

For those who believe, God sees no sin except that which is upon Jesus. God therefore punished the man Jesus until the penalty of our sin was exhausted and the justice of the law was fully satisfied.

## **Under the curse**

Jesus hung on the cross, not as the accepted man, but as the cursed and rejected man. The human race was a mountain of condemned flesh. Jesus climbed to the top of the pile and received into his body the full blast of all God’s fury. He alone knows what it is to fall into the hands of the living God bearing the full penalty of sin. The curse of the law poured into Jesus until it was empty. The sword of justice was broken off in His holy flesh.

## **Resurrected**

Under the watchful eye of the law, He was lowered to hell carrying the sin of the world. The law

walked away from the execution fully satisfied. Viewing His execution, it closed its case against the human race.

But the Scripture quotes Jesus in that hour, “*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption (Psalm 16:10).*”

When the justice of God and the demand of the law was fully expended, He exercised his rights as an overcomer and ascended, leaving the power of sin broken and death void of its sting.

A man who has paid for the crimes chargeable to him is released from prison. So God released the overcoming man from the prison house of death. In the resurrection, Jesus is the accepted Man, received into glory, seated on God’s right hand and given the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33).

If you believe this, rejoice that your sins are forgiven. \*\*\*

