

Title: transformed I – receiving the new wine
Speaker: André Kruger
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****NB: grace does not condone sin, grace is the power to overcome sin.**

Time for a change

Jesus announces a new era:

Mark 2:22 (NKJV) ²² *And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine bursts the wineskins, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But new wine must be put into new wineskins.*

- **New wine? The new wine represents new life - the essence of life transformation.** Jesus was announcing an outpouring of new wine or His **grace**.
- **New wineskin?** The only way new wine can be contained is with a new wineskin.

Romans 12:2 (NLT) ² *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.*

- **New wineskin / New container: Change the way you think. A new framework of thinking or new glasses of perceiving the goodness of God.**
- **The new wine is the fuel for your new car.** The grace empowers you to move forward and break free from sin or the terminator that is following you.
- Our old way of thinking, when we think according to the law, works and our own performance makes it near impossible to understand and receive the grace of God where it is not about what we do, but about what Jesus has already done for us.
- **"Wineskins are ruined":** Christianity becomes a mess when we try to do law and grace together. The wineskins burst and both are ruined. Christians live with heavy burdens when we try to combine law and grace or try to receive the new wine of grace and put it into a "law" container. It will not last.

Good news!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Jesus took all our sins upon Himself. He became sin. An exchange took place. He took our sin upon Himself and we took His righteousness upon us. How? Through faith or putting our trust in Him. **The murderer "sin" or the terminator has been dealt with.**

So you and I can declare: **"I am the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ."**

****Righteousness is received, not achieved.** In Christ we become the righteousness of God.

All our sins have been forgiven, past, present and future.

Even when you commit a sin, that sin has already been forgiven. You needn't grovel, you needn't beg, you needn't be afraid of terrible punishment from God. Why? *For you are the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ. Simply receive His righteousness.*

*****When God looks at you and me, He sees us as pure, holy and righteous like Jesus is. **It is about right believing that makes us righteous, not right behaviour. Receive His righteousness, don't try to achieve it!**

***But surely this will cause people to go off track and sin?** The truth is that Christians **are already** going off track and committing sins, despite the preaching to "stop sinning". Law doesn't empower you and me to stop sinning; it actually encourages us to sin.

- ****The pure fuel of grace (the new wine) will cause our vehicle to move forward at a great pace.** Yet when shame and guilt sets in then the fuel get mixed with these foreign substances which causes the engine to cease. The result is that our vehicle comes to a standstill and the terminator called "sin" catches up to us. Sin will then manifest in our lives.

Nothing we do can separate us from Christ: Even when we sin, if we know that the price for our sins has already been paid and that we have already been forgiven, that we are the righteousness of Christ despite our performance then the power of grace will kick in, and we will speed ahead free from sin, guilt and shame.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NLT) ³⁰ *God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.*

None of this I achieved. Christ made me pure and holy and freed me from sin. None of my good works achieved this, it is all Christ. He did it all for me. The result is that I can only boast in what Christ has done, and not in anything I have done.

Schizophrenic Christianity

Good news, becomes bad news – we so easily think “it is too good to be true”. So as we drive along by the grace of God we think that maybe we should add something to what Jesus has done? Maybe we should work for what He has done for us? So we take our foot off the grace accelerator, the vehicle comes to a standstill, we get out and start pushing. Then the terminator draws near again...

- *“I would rather push a Landy than drive a japcrap.”* Many of us struggle to receive something for free. We feel we have to do something, earn something and prove that we are worthy of what Jesus has done for us. Our flesh desires something to boast in, and so we push the vehicle instead of allowing grace to propel us forward.

Good God, becomes an angry God: As you push your landy you hear the words “**you miserable worm.** After everything I’ve done for you on the cross, you can’t even keep yourself from pathetic.” **Is that the voice of a loving Father?** No!

- We so easily believe that when we have sinned that it is God who makes us sick, or causes an accident to come upon us. God is love, but the moment we sin we believe that He is no longer love, but anger, judgment and punishment. Not so!
- ****All of God’s anger has been spent on Jesus Christ on the cross. He became sin for us...**

It is finished! He tasted the sour wine, so that we need not.

John 19:28–30 (NKJV) ²⁸ *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!”* ²⁹ *Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; ... and put it to His mouth.* ³⁰ *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “**It is finished!**” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

- **Sour wine?** *Jesus tasted sour wine, so that we could have the new.* Jesus was under the **yoke of the law** and fulfilled it completely, so that we need not be under that yoke. He took **all the punishment** for our sins, so that we could be free from punishment.
- **It is finished! It is done.** We think *****do, do, do... not! It is done. done. done.**

Remember!!!!

Luke 22:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”* ²⁰ *Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.”*

- **Remember! Reminder!** “What I have done for you”.
 - **For you:** for all the mistakes you will make. All the sins you will commit. It is done for you. Simply believe.
 - **It is right believing, not right behaviour.**
 - Receive righteousness, don’t try to achieve it. Receive what Chris has done for you.