

What is Imputation?

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's Word in the garden, sin entered the world. That sin was first to them and then was "imputed" or "credited" to every person after them. This is what **Psalm 51:5** means that we were born a sinner (also referred to as "original sin" or "inherited sin"). It is a part of every human person since the fall and that "sin debt" is within our "flesh". This means that our "flesh" or humanness' inclination (urge) is to sin. This "inherited sin" was "credited to us and it is a debt that has to be paid to (judged by) God. God will judge every person for this sin debt no matter if they believe in Him or not. No person - no matter how good we try to be - will ever be able to pay this "sin debt". We live in our fallen nature of sin. God showed, through His Law and Holy Word, our fallen state. Our sin is exposed when we come to the realization of who we are and Who He is (explained really well in **Romans 7:7-12**). All the annual sacrifices that were outlined in the Law were to demonstrate how we, in our own power, could never fully pay this sin debt. There would always need to be another sacrifice. Creation is fallen. The Creator, however, is not. And so that payment for that "sin debt" needed to be sinless in order for God's wrath to be completely satisfied. Only when full payment was made would the debt of sin be fully fulfilled/paid. The sinless Lamb would have to "take the sin debt" of the sinful on Himself. This is how our sin was "imputed or credited" to Jesus. God, the Father, looked at Jesus, God the Son, as if He had committed our sin. Jesus didn't become sin nor did He stop being Deity. God, the Father, treated His Son, Jesus, like He was the sinner. Jesus' crucifixion was God's wrath fully being poured out on Jesus as if Jesus was us, the sinner. This is what Jesus meant when He screamed with His final breath from the cross "It is finished". (In original language this means "paid in full", "accomplished", "complete"). Once that sin debt was paid in full, a way of salvation was made available. (Those who lived before the cross put their faith in God's Word of what He would do and their belief in God's Word was credited to those before the cross as righteousness; **Genesis 15:6**). And in response (for those who live after the cross), all who repent of their sin and profess their belief in Jesus as the Son of God and His salvational payment for them on the cross become children of God. (**John 1:12-13**). And when a person becomes a child of God, Jesus' righteousness is "imputed or credited" to him/her. This is what **Romans 5:17** means- "For if, by the trespass of the one man (Adam), death reigned through that one man (Adam and his descendants), how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

I pray this explanation has helped to understand "imputation" better. I'm here if you have any further questions.