

"BECAUSE HE LIVES"

By Dr. Hoyt W. Allen, Jr.

One day a man went to visit a church. He arrived early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near him and the driver told him, "I always park there. You took my place!"

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "You took my place." The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday school, the visitor went into the church sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit. You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still said nothing.

Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandal-clad feet. *Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out. "What happened to you?"*

The visitor replied, "I took your place."

Often, we as humans treat one another in a very rude manner and act as though our congregation is really our church and do not consider that it is really Christ's church. We should welcome those who come to the building seeking to find the Savior. Can we attempt to do better? It must start with us and not the person in the other pew.

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