

2 Corinthians #13 (2 Cor 5:18-21)

I. Let's Look at Some Terms and Phrases Paul Uses in This Passage

- A. Verse 18 – “All things are of God” – again must be taken in context
 - 1. Refers back to verse 17- the “all things” of the new creation
 - a. New will and new heart is all of God – Ezekiel 11:19
 - b. Faith to become new creation is of God – Ephesians 2:8
 - c. Repentance from old things is from God– 2 Tim. 2:25; Acts 11:18
 - d. Anything relating to the new Creature- James 1:17; 2 Cor. 5:21
- B. Verse 20 – We are “ambassadors” – Representatives – Eph. 6:20
 - 1. We represent our sovereign as strangers – 1 Pet. 2:11; Phil. 3:20
 - 2. Word means “To deliver a message for another”
 - a. Can only deliver God's message, not our own- Num. 20:8 – 12
 - b. We cannot change terms of gospel – Gal. 1:8, 9
 - 3. Only in sense of ambassadors we have ability to remit sins -Jn 20:23

II. Let Us Look at the Main Theme of Reconciliation

- A. This word or some form of it is found 5 times in this passage
 - 1. Verse 18 (twice) Verse 19 (twice) and Verse 20 (once)
- B. Some of these statements can appear contradictory to us
 - 1. If God has already reconciled world (v.19)-why must we do anything?
 - 2. But yet there is the command for us to “be reconciled” – Verse 20
- C. Greek word for “reconciliation” (Katallasso) refers to exchanging of coin
 - 1. Always used of our relationship to God except 1 Cor. 7:11
 - 2. Paul uses it primarily in this passage and in Romans 5:10, 11
- D. One clear thing is that God is the One who does the reconciling
 - 1. Does it “in Christ” – He is the initiator – though the offender should be
 - a. See this in Garden of Eden – Genesis 3:8-10, 21- God seeks man
- E. Reconciliation was actually accomplished at the cross Verses 18, 19
- F. So if that is true – why must we preach “Be reconciled to God”? Vs. 20
 - 1. It isn't “Reconcile Yourself to God” – it is passive sense- Jer. 31:18
- G. Reconciliation to be accomplished must affect both parties – Is. 59:2
 - 1. Because of sin God is angry with us–Ps. 5:5; 7:11-Cross deals with
 - 2. But we are also at enmity with God – Romans 8:7
 - 3. So sinner must still be called to a response
- H. Verse 19 –“reconciling the world” – doesn't mean every single person
 - 1. Romans 11:11-15 – Same phrase refers to inclusion of Gentiles
 - a. Change in God's relation to the Gentile world

III. Finally We Will Look at Verse 21 – “The Great Exchange” (Luther)

- A. Christ takes upon Himself our sins, that we may take His righteousness
- B. “Knew no sin” – refers in the practical sense (1 Peter 2:22, Heb. 7:26)
 - 1. Word could refer to “Sin offering” but never used that way in NT
 - 2. Christ not made a “sinner” – but took upon Him the guilt of our sin
- C. Paul making comparison-Christ made sin same way we made righteous
 - 1. He wasn't practically a sinner-nor are we made practically righteous
 - 2. Is. 53:4-6 – Our sins put upon Him- His righteousness is put on us

Conclusion: So the message of this day is your sins have been dealt with

- A. Christ's resurrection proves it (Rom 4:25) – so “Be reconciled to God”