

2 Cor 5:20-6:2

I. The Command v20

Our text begins with a command.

1. We implore you...be reconciled to God.
2. That word implore literally means to admonish, beg, exhort.

Who issued this command?

1. At first glance it was Paul.
2. But in reality it was the Holy Spirit of God through Paul.

The Holy Spirit through Paul is admonishing the Corinthians...us, begging us, exhorting us to be reconciled to God.

1. God is imploring us to be reconciled to Him!
2. 1 Timothy 2:3-4 *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*
3. How does this make you feel...that God so loves You and desires Your salvation that He would implore you, admonish you, and beg You to come to Him and be saved?

God is imploring us to be reconciled to Him!

1. While it is great to realize God wants us to come to Him, we must realize that like God telling a paralyzed man "run to me."
2. No...it is like God telling a dead man to come to Him.
3. He is asking us to do that which we cannot do.
4. Eph 2:1-2 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience*
 - a. What can a dead man do?
 - b. There is nothing that You can do! No amount of praying, giving, or good works can fix the problem God has with You.
 - c. We are so utterly alienated in our hearts from God and holiness that we are incapable of rendering to God any acceptable worship and service.

So, How can we be reconciled to God?

1. Notice what Paul tells us...
2. *"On behalf of Christ."*

II. The Hope v21

Our hope is in Christ!

1. He is the only one capable of reconciling us to the Father.
2. No priest, preacher, or parent...but only the Almighty Son of God!

The Eternal Christ alone is capable.

1. Revelation 4 and 5
2. This Christ, humbled himself and became a man.
3. Phil 2:5-8 *Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*
 - a. He came to this earth, born apart from sin
 - b. He lives a sinless life never once falling to the world, the flesh, or the devil.

He never knew sin...it was foreign to Him!

1. He had no concept of sin...no experience with it.
2. And He became sin! He became our sin!
3. Isa 53:4-12
 - a. How can this be?
 - b. How will he, who has been crushed by the Father, judged by the wrath of God, killed, and buried see anything?
 - c. Because on Easter Sunday, he rose victorious over death, hell, and the grave.

III. The Response v1

There are 3 ways to respond.

1. **Not to respond**
2. **To Respond in Vain**
 - a. To respond in vain is to respond, but not hold fast.
 - b. 1 Cor 15:1-2 *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.*
 - c. Mark 4:14-20 *The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."*
3. **To Respond Effectively**
 - a. To effectively respond does not mean we get a flu shot.
 - b. Acts 26:20 *they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance*
 - c. Romans 10:9-13
 - d. Luke 9:23ff

IV. The Urgency v2

Why the urgency? 2 reasons.

1. You will die and you will be judged.
2. Christ is going to return and you will be judged.
3. 2 Cor 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

Rev 20:11-15

You will stand before Christ. Your sin must be dealt with.

1. Either in Christ on the cross
2. Or in you for eternity.
3. Run to Christ today!

Application Questions for Home Group:

1. What do we learn about God from this text?
2. Discuss the fact that God desires all men to be saved. What implication does this have for us?
3. What do we learn about man from this text?
4. What do we learn about Christ from this text, and from Revelation 4 and 5? What does this mean for us?
5. How should we respond to this text and to this sermon? Discuss the different types of responses that one could make, and share which response you are prone to make.