

The Supremacy Of Christ In Preaching***Mukama mulungi / Ekissela kyona
Ekissela kyona / Mukama mulungi*****The Ministry of Reconciliation – The Greatest Exchange!
2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

Introduction: When you go from country to country to another you have to exchange your money to be able to do business. When I came I had to exchange American Dollars for Ugandan Schillings therefore I would imagine that for all of you who came from outside of Uganda had to make a similar exchange to have the right currency to pay your fees for the Pastor's Conference. And as you know the one who exchanges your money whether it is a bank like Barclays or another charges a small fee to do this business for you.

Tonight we are going to talk about two other exchanges that you may also make but both of these are very costly. Every man, woman, boy and girl to ever live has made the first exchange that comes with a huge price tag for every one of them. The other exchange is to be offered to every man, woman, boy and girl upon the earth at a price none of them could afford but wondrously the cost has been fully paid by Another.

You may have already figured out that the business the Scripture talks about in these exchanges is the commerce of the soul where the trades will not affect for these few years on earth but for all of eternity.

Let us look to God's word to see this first spiritual exchange that is made by every living person on this planet that God describes for us in **Romans 1:18-24 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts**

That is the exchange that was made by Adam the first Father of us all as in the Garden he listened to the lie of Satan believing that he could be "a god unto himself." That exchange not only came to Adam at great cost bringing Him estrangement from God along with misery and death but to all of us also which is described in **Ephesians 2:1-2 you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 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**

Turn with me now to God's word, which describes the second exchange that we offer to people through our ministry of the Gospel. This greatest of exchanges offered to the world is at the same time only by the greatest cost to Him. **2 Corinthians 5:11-21**

Prayer:

I. Here Are Two Motivations From God For Your Work Of Gospel Ministry To Offer The Greatest Exchange!

A. The fear of the Lord:

1. 2 Corinthians 5:11 Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.

a. Each of us must stand in judgment before God because like Adam we have made the great exchange to be "gods unto ourselves."

i. 2 Corinthians 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.

B. The love of Christ:

1. 2 Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

a. When we consider all that Jesus has done for us through His crucifixion and resurrection so now as His blood bought and blood bound brothers we are motivated by love to both serve and obey Him.

II. As Ambassadors Of Jesus, You Bring The Gospel, The Good News That Reconciliation Is Possible With God The Father!

A. As Christ's ambassador, His messenger you can offer people new life in Christ!

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

a. That is the encounter that Nicodemus had with Jesus when our Lord told Him that he must be born again.

b. It speaks of the whole process of our salvation in which God elects, justifies, sanctifies and glorifies us in Christ.

c. This describes how Jesus gives His disciples with a new life, a new record, a new love and new power.

B. Here is our joyful ministry of reconciliation

1. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- a. In Christ God not only makes us new creations but He also makes our relationship with Him right.
 - i. Legally a judge may announce the verdict of not guilty and acquit the accused person of a crime and never see him again or develop a personal relationship him.
 - ii. The amazing thing about reconciliation is that the God whom we have sinned against and who is also our judge not only drops the charges against us but also adopts us into His family at an infinite cost to Himself.
- b. Listen to the Apostle Paul in **Romans 5:11 we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.**
 - i. In exercising this ministry of reconciliation Pastor John MacArthur has said that when people ask him what his job is that at times he will respond in this way:
 - ✓ “I have a really great job. I get tell sinners that they can be reconciled to God! Are you interested?”
- c. MacArthur then goes on to describe our ministry of reconciliation in this way.
 - i. It is the divine provision by which hostility can be removed.
 - ii. It is the God’s provision by which sinners can be restored to Him.
 - iii. The Lord sovereignly initiates this reconciliation.
 - iv. It is not when something we accomplish when we stop rejecting Him, it is accomplished when He stops rejecting us.
 - v. It is what we embrace, not what we do.
 - vi. You are involved in this ministry of reconciliation as you proclaim His message of reconciliation.

Conclusion: The Good News Of The Gospel Is That High The Cost Of The Greatest Exchange That You Must Make Has Been Paid By Another!

A. 2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he (God the Father) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 1. This is the Apostle Paul’s version of **John 3:16**
 - a. This is the good news of the gospel in condensed form.
- 2. Pastor Steve Lawson describes it in this way:
 - a. This is the great(est) exchange, the double transaction that happened at the cross.
 - b. Here you have the dual nature of justification where our sins are imputed to Him and His righteousness is imputed to us.
 - c. Something was taken from us and given to Christ and something was taken from Christ was given to us.
 - d. The worst about us was given to Jesus and the best about Jesus was given to us.
 - e. Our sins were placed upon Christ and His righteousness was given to us.

B. Listen to the Apostle Paul's description to the Galatians:

1. **Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.**

C. Pastor John MacArthur:

1. On the cross, God treated Christ as if He had committed all the sins of every sinner who would ever believe, so that He could treat believers as if they had lived Christ's perfect life. **(Repeat)**

D. Matthew Henry:

1. As Christ, who knew no sin of his own, was made sin for us, so we, who have no righteousness of our own, are made the righteousness of God in him.

E. This is the reality of the New Covenant fulfillment of the Old Covenant Promise given by God to describe the greatest exchange that He would offer to sinners through His ministers of the Gospel!

1. **Isaiah 53:4-6 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**