<u>SERIES</u>: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A MAN OF GOD, WEEK 23

**TITLE: HOW GOD RECONCILES SINNERS** 

**TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 5:21** 

INTRODUCTION: I WANT TO BEGIN THIS MORNING BY ASKING A SERIES OF QUESTIONS THAT HAVE ETERNAL RAMIFICATIONS ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES.

\* THEY ARE, HOW CAN AN ABSOLUTELY AND INFINITELY HOLY PURE SINLESS GOD BE RECONCILED TO SINNERS – REBELS?

\*\* HOW CAN GOD'S HOLY, JUST, PERFECT LAW, WHICH DEMANDS THE CONDEMNATION, JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT OF ALL WHO VIOLATE IT, BE SATISFIED?

\*\*\* HOW CAN THOSE WHO DESERVE NO MERCY AND FORGIVENESS RECEIVE IT?

\*\*\*\* HOW CAN GOD UPHOLD TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GIVE GRACE?

(2) HOW CAN THE DEMANDS OF BOTH JUSTICE AND LOVE BE MET?

- \* AND FINALLY, HOW CAN A SINLESS GOD BE BOTH JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER OF SINNERS?
- \*\* NOW THOSE ARE HARD PROFOUND DIFFICULT QUESTIONS TO ANSWER.
- \*\*\* YET ONE BRIEF VERSE ANSWERS ALL THOSE QUESTIONS, OUR TEXT TODAY, II CORINTHIANS 5:21.
- \*\*\*\* FOR IN A FEW DIRECT WORDS, 15 OF THEM IN THE GREEK TEXT, PAUL IS INSPIRED WITH A CONCISENESS AND BREVITY TO SET FORTH THE GOSPEL OF RECONCILIATION IN ALL ITS MYSTERY AND WONDER. THE HOW AND WHY ARE ANSWERED.
- (3) II CORINTHIANS 5:21 DISCLOSES THE MEANING OF THE WORD RECONCILIATION.
- \* IT ANSWERS THE QUESTIONS AS TO WHY GOD WAS WILLING TO OVERCOME HIS ANGER TOWARD SIN AS HE REACHED OUT TO US IN LOVE.
- \*\* HENCE, THERE IS PROBABLY NO SENTENCE IN SCRIPTURE MORE PROFOUND THAN II CORINTHIANS 5:21.
- \*\*\* FOR THIS VERSE EMBRACES THE WHOLE GROUND OF THE SINNER'S RECONCILIATION TO GOD AND DECLARES THE REASON WHY GOD SAVES SINNERS IN THE GOSPEL.

- \*\*\*\* BELOVED, THIS SENTENCE REVEALS THE ESSENCE OF THE ATONEMENT, EXPRESSES THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE, AND ARTICULATES THE MOST GLORIOUS TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE, HOW FALLEN PEOPLE'S ALIENATION FROM GOD CAN BE RESTORED.
- (3) AND LET ME BACK UP HERE FOR A MOMENT. THE TRUTH OF RECONCILIATION CAN ONLY BE GLORIOUS WHEN WE UNDERSTAND HOW HEINOUS OUR SIN IS TO GOD.
- \* AND BECAUSE WE ARE SO FREQUENTLY INVOLVED IN AND SEE SIN, WE EASILY BECOME DESENSITIZED TO ITS ABHORRENT CHARACTER.
- \*\* BUT GOD IS NOT LIKE THAT, OUR SIN OFFENDS HIM, GRIEVES HIM, AND ALIENATES HIM.
- \*\*\* AND OUR SIN HAS SEPARATED HIM FROM US, IT IS A BARRIER, A WALL, IT HAS ESTRANGED US FROM HIM BECAUSE HE IS HOLY, PURE, SINLESS, A GOD OF LIGHT AND IN HIM THERE IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL..
- \*\*\*\* THEREFORE TO RECONCILE SINNERS CANNOT MEAN THE IGNORING OF SIN AND HUMAN REBELLION OR THE MERE REDUCING OF GOD'S DISPLEASURE OVER SIN.
- (4) SO HOW CAN GOD BE APPEASED?

- \* WELL, ACTION WAS NECESSARY BY GOD. THE DIVINE DISAPPROVAL OF SIN MUST BE REMOVED. HOW HAS GOD DONE THIS?
- \*\* WELL, II CORINTHIANS 5:21 GIVES US THE DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION FOR RECONCILIATION.
- \*\*\* HE CAN RECEIVE GUILTY REBELLIOUS SINNERS WHO COME TO HIM IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH IN HIS SON, GOD THE SON, FOR THE LORD JESUS HAS PERFECTLY DEALT WITH THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF SIN AND SINNERS CAN BE RECONCILED.
- \*\*\*\* THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, GOD IMPUTED TO HIS PEOPLE, RIGHTEOUSNESS, EXTENDED TO THEM FRIENDSHIP AND MADE PEACE WITH PEOPLE THAT WERE AT WAR WITH HIM. THERE IS GOOD NEWS TODAY.
- \*\*\*\*\* SINNERS CAN BE RECONCILED. GOD SAVES SINNERS AND II CORINTHIANS 5:21 GIVES US 15 WORDS OF HOPE.
- (5) THUS I'VE TITLED MY SERMON TODAY, HOW GOD RECONCILES SINNERS.
- \* AND UNDER THAT TITLE AND THEME WE'LL LOOK AT JUST TWO POINTS. NO. 1 THE PROVISION OF HIS SON, V. 21A; AND NO. 2 THE PURPOSE OF THE PROVISION, V. 21B.

- \*\* AND WITH THOSE TWO POINTS TO DIRECT OUR PATH OF STUDY TODAY, LOOK AT V. 21A PLEASE TO BEGIN WITH WHERE WE'LL SEE THE PROVISION.
- I. THE PROVISION, (READ V. 21A)
- A. NOW THE PRONOUN "HE" IN V. 21 IS SPEAKING OF GOD THE FATHER. AND HE IS THE ONE WHOM SINNERS NEED TO BE RECONCILED TO.
- \* FOR AS YOU LOOK BACK TO THE END OF V. 20 IT SAYS, "BE RECONCILED TO GOD."
- \*\* AND RECONCILIATION IS GOD THE FATHER'S PLAN AND IT COULD NOT OCCUR UNLESS HE INITIATED AND APPLIED IT.

- \*\*\* FOR ONLY GOD THE FATHER COULD DESIGN A SALVATION FROM SIN THAT WOULD SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF HIS JUSTICE, APPEASE HIS WRATH AND BE CONSISTENT WITH HIS LOVE, GRACE AND MERCY.
- \*\*\*\* SO OUR NEED IS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD, THE "HE" OF V. 21.
- 1. BUT NOTICE ANOTHER PRONOUN AS WE MOVE ALONG IN V. 21, AND IT IS "HIM." AND HIM HERE IS THE LORD

JESUS CHRIST, FOR HE IS THE 2'D PERSON OF THE TRINITY WHO ACTUALLY CAME TO EARTH, THE GOD-MAN, AND WHILE ON THIS EARTH NEVER ONCE COMMITTED A SIN.

- \* HE LIVED A PERFECT LIFE FULFILLING AND OBEYING THE LAW OF GOD, THE ONLY ONE EVER TO DO THAT ON THIS EARTH.
- \*\* AND THE ONLY ONE WHOM KNEW NO SIN COULD QUALIFY TO BEAR THE FULL WRATH OF GOD AGAINST THE SINS OF OTHERS.
- \*\*\* FOR YOU SEE THE PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR SIN WOULD HAVE TO BE A HUMAN BEING, FOR ONLY A MAN COULD DIE FOR OTHER MEN, FOR OTHER PEOPLE.
- \*\*\*\* YET, HE WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE GOD, FOR ONLY GOD IS PERFECT. HOLY AND SINLESS.
- 2. AND THAT NARROWS DOWN THE FIELD TO ONE PERSON WHO EVER WALKED ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, THE GOD MAN, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- \* JESUS IS THE HIM OF V. 21. SO "HE," GOD THE FATHER MADE "HIM" THE LORD JESUS WHO KNEW NO SIN.

- \*\* AND UNDERSTAND THE WORD "MADE" IN BETWEEN HE AND HIM IS SPEAKING OF THE FATHER'S PLAN, THE FATHER'S DESIGN, THE FATHER'S WILL.
- \*\*\* AND IN THAT PLAN, THE 2'D PERSON OF THE TRINITY BECAME A MAN (QUOTE GALATIANS 4:4&5).
- \*\*\*\* SO GOD BECAME A MAN TO SAVE MAN, TO SAVE SINNERS. AND AS THE GOD-MAN, HE WAS THE PERFECT ONE TO BE THE SACRIFICE FOR SIN, FULFILLING THE O.T. PICTURE OF THE UNBLEMISHED SACRIFICIAL LAMB, QUOTE JOHN 1:29 AND I PETER 1:18&19.
- 3. SO JESUS WAS THE FINAL SACRIFICIAL LAMB THAT WAS WITHOUT BLEMISH OR SPOT, PERFECT, SINLESS.
- \* AND THE SINLESSNESS OF JESUS, THE IMPECCABILITY OF JESUS IS CLEARLY AFFIRMED IN SCRIPTURE, QUOTE HEBREWS 4:15 AND I PETER 2:22.
- \*\* AND THEN IN I JOHN 3:5 IT SAYS: "YOU KNOW THAT HE APPEARED IN ORDER TO TAKE AWAY SINS; AND IN HIM THERE IS NO SIN."
- \*\*\* SO JESUS WAS SINLESS, PERFECT, A HOLY SUBSTITUTE.
- \*\*\*\* AND THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR US IN BEING RECONCILED TO A HOLY PURE GOD.

- 4. FOR AS A PERFECT MAN, CHRIST KNEW NO SIN, AND ONLY ON THAT GROUND WAS HE QUALIFIED TO EFFECT AN ATONEMENT, TO EFFECT FORGIVENESS AS MAN FOR MAN.
- \* SO JESUS IS THE ABSOLUTELY HOLY SINLESS SUBSTITUTE FOR SINNERS.
- \*\* BUT GET THIS, AFTER THAT TRUTH IS DECLARED, THE ONE WHO KNEW NO SIN IN HIS ADVENT AND INCARNATION, PAUL SAYS: TO BE SIN ON OUR BEHALF, GOD MADE HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN, TO BE SIN ON OUR BEHALF!
- \*\*\* AND BEFORE I ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN WHAT THAT MEANS, LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT IT DOES NOT MEAN.
- \*\*\*\* IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT CHRIST BECAME A SINNER. FOR WHEN GOD THE FATHER MADE JESUS SIN BY IMPUTING, BY PUTTING SIN TO HIS ACCOUNT, CHARGING IT TO CHRIST'S ACCOUNT, RECKONING IT TO JESUS' ACCOUNT, GOD THEN REGARDED JESUS AS THE SINBEARER, NOT AS A SINNER.
- 5. AND TO THINK OF CHRIST AS A SINNER, AS SINFUL, WOULD BE TO OVERTHROW THE VERY FOUNDATION OF REDEMPTION, OF PURCHASING PEOPLE AND FORGIVING THEM. FOR PURCHASING SALVATION FOR SINNERS

DEMANDS THE DEATH OF AN ALTOGETHER SINLESS ONE IN THE PLACE OF SINNERS, VICARIOUSLY FOR SINNERS.

- \* AND NOT FOR ONE MOMENT DOES JESUS CEASE TO BE RIGHTEOUS, SINLESS, ELSE THE GREAT EXCHANGE WHEREBY OUR SIN IS TRANSFERRED TO HIM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IS TRANSFERRED TO US WOULD BE A FAIRY TALE, A MYTH, NOT A REALITY.
- \*\* SO JESUS WAS NOT MADE A SINNER NOR WAS HE PUNISHED FOR ANY SIN OF HIS OWN.
- \*\*\* INSTEAD, GOD THE FATHER TREATED JESUS <u>AS IF</u> HE WERE A SINNER BY CHARGING TO HIS ACCOUNT THE SINS OF THOSE THE FATHER ORDAINED TO SAVE, FOR ALL THOSE WHOM WOULD BE ENABLED TO BELIEVE, HIS PEOPLE.
- \*\*\*\* AND BELOVED, ALL THOSE SINS WERE CHARGED TO HIM, RECKONED TO HIM, PUT ON HIS ACCOUNT AS OUR SUBSTITUTE, AS IF HE HAD PERSONALLY COMMITTED THEM.
- 6. THEREFORE JESUS WAS PUNISHED WITH THE PENALTY FOR THEM ON THE CROSS, EXPERIENCING THE FULL FURY, THE HOT WRATH UNLEASHED AGAINST ALL THOSE SINS THAT HE BORE AS OUR SUBSTITUTE, PAYING FOR EACH SIN.

- \* AT THIS POINT, JOHN MACARTHUR SAYS IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS THESE THINGS AND I QUOTE: "IT IS CRUCIAL, THEREFORE, TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ONLY SENSE IN WHICH JESUS WAS MADE SIN WAS BY IMPUTATION. HE WAS PERSONALLY PURE, YET OFFICIALLY CULPABLE, PERSONALLY HOLY, YET FORENSICALLY GUILTY. BUT IN DYING ON THE CROSS CHRIST DID NOT BECOME EVIL LIKE WE ARE NOR DO REDEEMED SINNERS BECOME INHERENTLY AS HOLY AS HE IS. GOD CREDITS (RECKONS) BELIEVER'S SIN TO CHRIST'S ACCOUNT AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THEIRS."
- \*\* JOHN WENT ON TO SAY: "IN GALATIANS 3:10, 13 PAUL FURTHER EXPLAINED THE NECESSITY OF BELIEVER'S SINS BEING IMPUTED TO CHRIST. IN VERSE 10 HE WROTE THAT "AS MANY AS ARE OF THE WORKS OF THE LAW ARE UNDER A CURSE; FOR IT IS WRITTEN, CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO THEM."

\*\*\* THERE IS NO WAY FOR SINNERS TO RECONCILE THEMSELVES TO GOD, BECAUSE NO ONE IS ABLE TO "ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO PERFORM THEM." VIOLATING EVEN ONE PRECEPT OF THE LAW WARRANTS **ETERNAL** PUNISHMENT IN HELL. THUS THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE IS CURSED AND UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO LIFT THAT CURSE. THEREFORE, THE ONLY REASON BELIEVERS CAN BE RECONCILED TO GOD IS BECAUSE "CHRIST REDEEMED US FROM A CURSE OF THE LAW, HAVING BECOME A CURSE FOR US - FOR IT IS WRITTEN, CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE." (V. 13) (END QUOTE)

\*\*\*\* AND BELOVED IF IT WERE NOT FOR CHRIST BECOMING A CURSE FOR US, SIN FOR US, NO ONE COULD BE RECONCILED.

## 7. LISTEN TO ISAIAH 53:4-6 (QUOTE THEM)

\* NOWBELIEVER, THE LORD CAUSED THE SIN OF US ALL (ALL BELIEVERS, HIS ELECT) TO FALL ON HIM.

- \*\* AND AS WE GO BACK TO OUR TEXT, TO BE SIN <u>ON OUR BEHALF</u>. FOR THOSE WHO JESUS CAME TO SAVE, HE DIED FOR HIS PEOPLE, THERE WOULD BE RECONCILIATION FOR THEM, A PARTICULAR REDEMPTION FOR HIS SHEEP IN JOHN 10:11, FOR HIS CHURCH IN EPHESIANS 5:25 AND FOR HIS PEOPLE IN MATTHEW 1:21.
- \*\*\* AND BELIEVER AS WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER TODAY, WE ARE THE BENEFICIARIES, JESUS BECAME SIN "ON OUR BEHALF."
- \*\*\*\* AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO THINK ABOUT THAT A LITTLE MORE THAN YOU MAY NORMALLY THINK ABOUT IT.
- 8. FOR I CORINTHIANS 11:23-26 SAYS: (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE MATTHEW 26:28. (THE MANY IS US, ON OUR BEHALF). ALSO QUOTE I PETER 2:24, ISAIAH 53:11&12 AND ROMANS 3:24.

<sup>\*</sup> ROMANS 3:25&26 -

- V. 25 WHOM GOD DISPLAYED PUBLICLY AS A PROPITIATION IN HIS BLOOD THROUGH FAITH. THIS WAS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, BECAUSE IN THE FORBEARANCE OF GOD HE PASSED OVER THE SINS PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED;
- V. 26 FOR THE DEMONSTRATION, I SAY, OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AT THE PRESENT TIME, SO THAT HE WOULD BE JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER OF THE ONE WHO HAS FAITH IN JESUS.
- \*\* AND BELOVED ACCORDING TO V. 26, THE WISDOM OF GOD'S PLAN IN RECONCILIATION ALLOWED HIM TO PUNISH JESUS IN THE PLACE OF SINNERS, "ON OUR BEHALF" AND THEREBY RECONCILE THOSE WHO ARE GUILTY WITHOUT COMPROMISING HIS JUSTICE.
- \*\*\* AND THEN 3 LAST VERSES BEFORE I MOVE ON, QUOTE ROMANS 4:25 AND ROMANS 5:8&9.
- \*\*\*\* AND BELIEVER, GOD, MADE JESUS, WHO KNEW NO SIN, TO BE SIN, "ON OUR BEHALF." AND WITH THAT SAID, IF YOU CAN'T COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE TODAY WITH A GRATEFUL HEART, THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG AS WE CONSIDER THE PROVISION FOR OUR RECONCILIATION, WHICH LEADS TO THE PURPOSE. LOOK BACK AT II CORINTHIANS 5:21 AGAIN PLEASE.

## II. THE PURPOSE. (READ V. 21)

- A. NOW THE PHRASE "SO THAT" OR "THAT" DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, IS CALLED A HINA PURPOSE CLAUSE IN THE GREEK, WHICH LIT. MEANS "IN ORDER THAT."
- \* AND SO WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF GOD THE FATHER MAKING JESUS THE SON TO BE SIN FOR US, ON OUR BEHALF?
- \*\* SO THAT, IN ORDER THAT, WE (BELIEVERS) MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD THE FATHER IN GOD THE SON.
- \*\*\* AND THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRIST'S DEATH ON OUR BEHALF IS THAT OUR SIN, WHICH SEPARATED US, ALIENATED US, DIVIDED US, ESTRANGED US FROM GOD, HAS BEEN REMOVED AND GOD ACCEPTS US, BRINGS US TO HIMSELF, BREAKS DOWN THE WALL THAT SEPARATES US, BRINGS PEACE, RECONCILES, ACCEPTS US AS IF WE HAVE NEVER SINNED AT ALL.

- \*\*\*\* BECAUSE OF THE SINLESS ONE, DYING ON OUR BEHALF, BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S DEATH, GOD DECLARES US INNOCENT.
- 1. HE AQUITS, HE DROPS ALL CHARGES AGAINST THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND GRANTS US THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- \* 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY THEOLOGIAN ZACHARIAS URSINUS PUT IT THIS WAY: "GOD GRANTS AND CREDITS TO ME THE PERFECT SATISFACTION, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS OF CHRIST, AS IF I HAD NEVER SINNED NOR BEEN A SINNER, AS IF I HAD BEEN PERFECTLY OBEDIENT AS CHRIST WAS OBEDIENT FOR ME."
- \*\* AND BELOVED, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, GOD HAS DECLARED US RIGHTEOUS AND HAS RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF. HENCE, "RECONCILIATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE THE PROVERBIAL TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN" ACCORDING TO SIMON KISTEMAKER IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS.
- \*\*\* AND A GREAT EXCHANGE TAKES PLACE. FOR THERE IN THE DARKNESS, OUR SINS WERE IMPUTED, PUT TO CHRIST'S ACCOUNT AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS WAS IMPUTED TO OUR ACCOUNT, "SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM," IN CHRIST.

- \*\*\*\* AND SO THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING, ALL OUR SINS WERE CREDITED TO CHRIST AND THE SPOTLESS PERFECTION OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS WAS CREDITED TO US. THEREFORE IN THIS GREAT EXCHANGE, WE ARE DECLARED TO HAVE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.
- 2. THEREFORE GOD NO LONGER SEES US IN SIN, BUT IN THE SON. AND WE ARE RECONCILED TO HIM.
- \* THUS THE BENEFIT OF GOD'S IMPUTING, PUTTING BELIEVER'S SINS TO CHRIST AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO US IS THAT THEY <u>BECOME</u> RIGHTEOUS BEFORE HIM, RIGHT WITH GOD THROUGH HIM.
- \*\* AS PHILIPPIANS 3:9 SAYS: WE ARE "FOUND IN HIM (CHRIST) NOT HAVING A RIGHTEOUSNESS OF (OUR) OWN DERIVED FROM THE LAW, BUT THAT WHICH IS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH COMES FROM GOD ON THE BASIS OF FAITH."
- \*\*\* HENCE, THE VERY RIGHTEOUSNESS GOD REQUIRES
  BEFORE HE CAN ACCEPT THE SINNER IS THE VERY
  RIGHTEOUSNESS HE PROVIDED!!
- \*\*\*\* FOR WE ON OUR OWN HAVE NO RIGHTEOUSNESS, WE LACK RIGHTEOUSNESS, QUOTE ROMANS 3:10&23 AND ISAIAH 64:6.

- 3. AND FOLKS, WE CANNOT EARN RIGHTEOUSNESS, WE CANNOT GAIN IT OR WORK FOR IT.
- \* AND THAT'S WHY THE FALSE RELIGIONS OF HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT CAN NEVER BRING RECONCILIATION WITH GOD, RELIGIONS OF WORKS. FOR THE ONLY WAY RECONCILIATION CAN TAKE PLACE IS IF GOD REACHED OUT TO SINNERS; AND HE DID BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIS SON ON THE CROSS.

IN WRAP UP: (1) HOW DOES GOD RECONCILE SINNERS? II CORINTHIANS 5:21 (QUOTE IT).

- \* AND HERE IS HOW IT HAPPENS PRACTICALLY FOR TODAY, HOW GOD RECONCILES SINNERS.
- \*\* WHEN SINNERS REPENT OF THEIR SINS, ACKNOWLEDGE AND TURN FROM THEIR SIN, AFFIRM JESUS CHRIST AS LORD, AND TRUST COMPLETELY IN HIS COMPLETED WORK ON THE CROSS AND HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD ON THEIR BEHALF,

\*\*\* GOD CREDITS HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THEIR ACCOUNT. FOR ON THE CROSS GOD TREATED JESUS AS IF HE HAD LIVED OUR LIVES WITH ALL OUR SIN, SO THAT

GOD COULD THEN TREAT BELIEVERS AS IF THEY LIVED CHRIST'S LIFE OF PURE HOLINESS.

- \*\*\*\* AND OUR SINFUL LIFE, OUR SINS WERE LEGALLY CHARGED TO HIM ON THE CROSS, AS IF HE HAD LIVED IT, SO THAT HIS RIGHTEOUS LIFE COULD BE CREDITED TO US, AS IF WE LIVED IT.
- (2) AND THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS TODAY. BE RECONCILED TO GOD! TURN TO HIM TODAY IF YOU SEE YOUR SIN AND YOUR NEED OF A SAVIOR, BY FAITH ALONE IN JESUS CHRIST ALONE, QUOTE ROMANS 5:1 (NO LONGER AT WAR)
- \* THEN ONE APPLICATION TO BELIEVERS AS WE START TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER, LOVE SO AMAZING THAT WOULD RECONCILE US AT SUCH A HIGH COST, LOVE SO DIVINE THAT COMES FROM ABOVE, DEMANDS, DEMANDS, MY SOUL, MY LIFE, MY ALL!!

\*\* MAY WE BE MOVED TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OF OUR HEART, SOUL AND MIND, AND BE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, DECLARING THE MESSAGE, THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION. (LET'S PRAY)