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**INTRODUCTION**

1. God's acts & words. As we minister God's words, God acts - 2C5:18-19. The message of reconciliation is contentless w/o God's reconciling activity.
  
2. What God, in Christ, did, has ongoing continued action as His Word of reconciliation is ministered. God reconciles sinners today, based on *the reconciliation* accomplished by Christ on the cross - Rm 5:8-11
  - i. Objective reconciliation in Christ is applied to us subjectively by Holy Spirit which we receive by faith & thereby experience reconciliation.
  
  - ii. Having been reconciled, we now play a part in God's purposes for the cosmos - 2C6:1a.
  
3. Today: *reconciling the world to Himself*. "Save the planet" - with a salvation defined by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**1st: The Reconciliation of the World**

1. Rm 8:19-23 creation is good but cursed
  
2. We, w/ creation, *groan & wait eagerly* - w/ hope [v24-25] b/c we have 1<sup>st</sup>fruit of HS who guarantees res of bodies = liberation of cosmos from death.
  
3. Cosmos is *subject to futility*, a kind of enmity w/ Creator, needs redemption

**2nd: Reconciled in Christ**

1. Col 1:19-20 Resurrected Jesus: Creator [v16]; Lord [v17]; Divine Redeemer of church. Entire cosmos is beneficiary of His cross-work.
  
2. Jesus' resurrected body guarantees the liberation of the cosmos - a liberation begun in us - Col 1:21-23. We are *1<sup>st</sup> fruits among His creatures* [Jms 1:18]. Eschatological liberation has begun: Jesus' resurrection; our regeneration - sanctification -> our resurrection & glorification of cosmos.

**3rd: Reconciled to Himself**

1. 1C15:21-28 *God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself & God will be all in all*. The vocabulary of fullness - abundance of life.
  
2. God's reconciliation excludes nothing. Only the Creator can save the planet.

**Applic #1: The Realism of Kingdom Inversion**

1. God chooses & uses foolish, weak, base nobodies & nothings. We walk by faith trusting God's promises, not our perceptions.
  
2. Ab's land of Canaan = type of cosmos - Rm 4:13 *heir of the world*.
  
3. Jesus' resurrected body = guarantee of the resurrected cosmos.
  
4. Lk 13:18-21

**Applic #2: The Necessity of Judgment**

1. Salvation thru Jdgmnt - 2Ptr 3:10-13
  
2. Will Jesus "save the planet?" Yes - thru jdgmnt of fire - Lk 3:16-17

**Applic #3: God is Active in Our Ministry of Reconciliation**

1. Our fidelity to this word of reconciliation issues into the glorious eternal Sabbath Life of resurrection splendor & *all thgs will be subjected to Him so that God may be all in all*. AMEN