

## **God's Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18- 6: 2)**

- Adam's sin was no accidental happenstance: it was open eyed rebellion
- He took the fruit wilfully sinning, thinking there would be no consequences
- The rebellion turned everything upside down. Eve followed the snake, Adam followed Eve, and no one followed God. Cosmic rebellion! (Gen 3:7)
- Our fallen nature is incessant. All because of our sin, rebellion between God & man has been counter matched by the wrath of God against man. Rom 1:18

### **I. Reconciliation is all of God (5:18-20)**

- Reconciliation is God's work unassisted. Reconciliation is not something we do but something God accomplishes from start to finish (**vs. 19**)
- The ministry of reconciliation is not telling people to make peace with God
- It's telling them that God has made peace with the fallen sinners of the world.
- There is a reckoning of sin. But it is reckoned not to sinners but to Jesus
- Paul saw himself as an ambassador imploring sinners: be reconciled to God
- The atoning substitutionary death of Jesus brings reconciliation & peace with God (Rom 5: 1-11). The promise of this peace was made long ago (Isa. 53)

### **II. How God Reconciles (5:21)**

- The heart of Gospel reconciliation is found in the words of 2 Cor 5:21
- 1) Christ made sin: for our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin
- Christ lived a sinless perfect life of obedience before God (1 Pet 2: 22)
- Jesus became sin while remaining inwardly & outwardly impeccable
- Jesus was cursed as he became a curse for us (Gal 3:13)
- 2) Sinners made righteous: so in Him we might become - righteousness of God
- Our sins were imputed to Christ & His righteousness imputed to us
- We are declared to be righteous, but it is more than a legal declaration
- It is a living out of that righteousness, a living out of that legal righteousness

### **II. Plea for Reconciliation (6:1, 2)**

- The logic of appeal is drawn from Isaiah 49:8 where Isaiah pleads for reconciliation. Likewise Paul pleads & implores people to be reconciled (1,2)
- **Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation**