

## 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 – Be Reconciled to God!

Scriptures:

<sup>11</sup> Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord,

5401 – a  
worshipping  
respect

we persuade men; but we are well known to God,

3982 – urge on,  
incite

and I also trust are well known in your

consciences.

Notes:

Verses 11 & 14 form a paradox – 11 = fear of the Lord – 14 = love of Christ

‘terror’ = fear – reverential awe

“It isn’t that Paul was terrified or afraid, as we commonly use the words, but rather that he was awed by the thought of standing before a Being so holy, so morally superior, so removed from evil that in His presence all human boasting, all human pride, and all human arrogance would vanish as he stands in speechless humility before the One beyond understanding and with trembling lips gives full account of himself.” (Hughes, 2006) page 112

If the thought of that doesn’t cause you some amount of fear, then you probably don’t understand it.

This fear that everyone would stand before the judgment seat of Christ motivated Paul to be as persuasive as possible.

Paul did not need to persuade God because God knew everything about him.

“God knew his heart and understood his motivations. He hoped his ministry was plain to the Corinthians as well.” (Pratt, 2000) page 355

Scriptures:

<sup>12</sup> For **we** do not commend ourselves again to **you**,

Notes:

It is the heart that matters, not the appearance of our actions. Our actions can appear good, holy, and right and yet come from a heart that is wicked and unbelieving.

'opportunity to boast' = to take delight and joy in the accomplishments of a friend or family member.

but give **you** opportunity to boast on **our** behalf,

that **you** may have *an answer* for those who boast

in appearance and not in heart.

Scriptures:

<sup>13</sup> For if **we** are beside ourselves, *it is* for God; or

Notes:

"Paul had committed himself totally to God's service, even to the point that he seemed to have lost his senses." (Pratt, 2000) page 356

Jesus' family wondered of He had lost His senses (ref?).

if **we** are of sound mind, *it is* for **you**.

Scriptures:

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ compels us, because we

4912 – To urge or force (a person) to an action; constrain or motivate.

Notes:

Paul's motivation = 'the love of Christ'

'all died' – Christ's death was a representative act. His death was as a representative for all who would believe in Him. Because Christ died as He did, we also died (to the power and penalty of sin) with Him on the cross.

'all died' – the old life is dead that regards people using fleshly distinctions.

"Mankind as a whole was under the sentence of death, that came in with the fall of the first man." (Ironside, 1938) page 388

Paul is not teaching universalism – that Christ's death saves everyone. Christ's death is sufficient to save everyone, but it is only efficient to save those who through faith come to Him in repentance for the forgiveness of sin.

judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

15 and He died for all, that those who live should

live no longer for themselves, but for Him who

died for them and rose again.

Notes:

Christ's death frees us to live for something greater than ourselves.

"Because men were dead He went down into death, and now He brings believers up with Him in resurrection life." (Ironsides, 1938) page 389

Illustration: Water bottle on top of pulpit == Adam as he was created – sinless. He rebelled and disobeyed God – fell from sinlessness (drop bottle onto floor) – under God's judgment/condemnation. All mankind comes into the world from that fallen place. Jesus came in sinless perfection. Had to go down to where men were to save them. Through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection, we are lifted up by Christ back onto the plane of righteousness (pick up bottle – put it back on pulpit). We are a new creation – we don't belong down there anymore.

'live no longer for themselves' – new creation = new way of living

'but for Him' – live for Jesus rather than for yourself


'those who live' – by faith in His atoning sacrifice

Scriptures:  
Galatians 3:13 - Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree")...

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, from now on, **we** regard no one

according to the flesh. Even though **we** have

known  Christ according to the flesh, yet now **we**

know *Him thus* no longer.

Notes:  
As a Pharisee, Paul had judged Christ according to the flesh, using human means of judging, and found Him to be wanting. That was why Paul had persecuted the Way so forcefully.

The fact that Jesus was crucified proved to Paul that Jesus had been cursed by God (Gal. 3:13).

Paul is being judged by others because of his regularly suffering for Christ. "This was bitter irony: Jesus had been despised and rejected by Paul through fleshly regard, and now Paul himself suffered from the same fleshly evaluation and rejection." (Hughes, 2006) page 117

'gospel disregard' – "The disregard of superficial evaluation that stems from our death in Christ on the cross." (Hughes, 2006) page 118

All of humanity can be divided into two groups: those who have been reconciled to God through faith in Christ, and those who God desires would be reconciled to God through faith in Christ. All other distinctions are secondary and relatively insignificant.

"...it is not the incarnate Christ with whom we are linked, it is the resurrected Christ. Incarnation apart from His death would never have saved one poor sinner." (Ironsides, 1938) page 390

Scriptures:

17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new

Notes:

'in Christ' = joined to Him in His death and resurrection

“'New creation' describes those who follow Christ because they have begun the transformation that will eventually lead to their full enjoyment of salvation in the new heavens and new earth.” (Pratt, 2000) page 357

creation; old things have passed away; behold, all

2937 – 'An object of creation brought into existence by God; as opposed to the creation as a whole.'

3928 - cease

things have become new.

2537 -

Scriptures:  
Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled

2644 – ‘To restore someone to favorable or friendly relations with another after a presumed wrong.’

us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given

us the ministry of reconciliation,

1248 – role or position of service

2643 -

Notes:  
Reconciliation is wholly a work of God!

“Reconciliation goes a step further; it is not only that our sins are forgiven and that divine justice has nothing against us. But it is that He has received us as His own to His loving heart, and we are reconciled to God and we joy in Him.” (Ironsides, 1938) page 391

‘ministry of reconciliation = God call to lost mankind through reconciled sinners. A call for all lost sinners to come to God with all their sins, with all their griefs, with all their burdens, and be reconciled to Him.

“Reconciliation is the establishment of harmony and peace between enemies.” (Pratt, 2000) page 358

Scriptures:  
Romans 5:10-11 - For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

John 8:3-11 - Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. 7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

<sup>19</sup> that is, that God <sup>△</sup> was in Christ <sup>~</sup> reconciling the

world to Himself <sup>△</sup>, not imputing <sup>xxxx</sup> their trespasses to

3049 – charge to account

them, and has committed to us <sup>△</sup> the word of

reconciliation.

Notes:  
'reconciling the world to Himself' – God does not need to be reconciled to mankind, mankind needs to be reconciled to God.

'not imputing their trespasses' – if God had taken into consideration our sins and rebellion before sending Jesus, He wouldn't have done it – He would have judged us as guilty and condemned us. Example (John 8:3-11).

"There is a reckoning of sins. But they are reckoned not to the sinner but to Christ." (Hughes, 2006) page 124

"Jesus did not die in order to enable God to love sinners, but He died *because* God loves sinners." (Ironside, 1938) page 392 (John 3:16)

"Christ did not come to charge man's sins against him but to pay man's debt" (Ironside, 1938) page 392



Scriptures:  
Isaiah 53:5 - But He was  
wounded for our  
transgressions,  
He was bruised for our  
iniquities;  
The chastisement for our  
peace was upon Him,  
And by His stripes we are  
healed.

<sup>20</sup> Now then, **we** are ambassadors for **Christ**, as

Notes:  
“The ministry of reconciliation is not  
telling people to make peace with  
God, but telling them that God has  
made peace with the world.”  
(Hughes, 2006) page 124

‘be reconciled’ is in the passive voice  
= it is the work of God – you don’t  
reconcile yourself to God – we  
simply receive it through faith.

though **God** were pleading through us: **we** implore

3870 – ask for  
earnestly, begging

1189 – plead, ask,  
beg

**you** on **Christ**’s behalf, be reconciled to God.

3870 – ask for  
earnestly, begging

Aorist - Passive

Scriptures:  
1 Peter 2:22 -  
Who committed no sin,  
Nor was deceit found in  
His mouth”;

Galatians 3:13 - Christ has  
redeemed us from the curse  
of the law, having become a  
curse for us (for it is  
written, “Cursed is  
everyone who hangs on a  
tree”),

21 For He made Him who knew no ~~sin~~ ~~to be~~ ~~sin~~ for

Notes:  
This is the most explicit statement of  
the sinlessness of Christ in the  
Scriptures. As a human being, Jesus  
was sinless!

Jesus remained sinless when He  
became sin for us.

‘that we might become...’ is the  
reason Jesus did it.

A supernatural transaction takes  
place at the cross – our sins are  
exchanged for His righteousness.  
That righteousness is what God sees  
when He looks at someone who has  
been reconciled by faith in Jesus  
Christ.

This is not just about having the  
righteousness of Christ (which we  
do) but becoming the righteousness  
of Christ. It is about conforming our  
life to His righteousness through  
faith and the power of the Holy  
Spirit.

us, that we might become the righteousness of

God in Him.