

GOD'S URGENT ENTREATY

Intro: Last week we saw that there are three words from Scripture which describe the finished work of Christ when taken together:

- 1) That which has to do with God: propitiation.
- 2) That which has to do with man: reconciliation.
- 3) That which has to do with sin: redemption.

The foundation of all is the satisfaction of God -- which is what we have in propitiation.

Tonight we want to think together about reconciliation.

The following are the key passages:

- 1) Rom. 5:9, 10. Note the mistranslation in v. 10.
- 2) 2 Cor. 5:17-20. In Rom. + 2 Cor. - καταλλάσσω
- 3) Eph. 2:14-18. καταλλάσσει
- 4) Col. 1:20-23. In Eph. + Col. - ἀποκαταλλάσσω

Note: Rom. 11:15 is related prophetically, but it is not necessary in order for us to understand this doctrine.

Basically, ἀλλάσσω means, "to change, to cause one thing to cease and another to

~~take its place~~ take its place" (Hayer, 28).

Now let us gather together the important points in these passages to learn what reconciliation is.

I. THE WORDS TRANSLATED, RECONCILE, or RECONCILIATION.

The word basically means to change. The prepositions which are placed before it are meant to convey the idea of a complete change.

When it is brought into the question of man's relationship with God it indicates that a complete change is needed.

II. THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT IN HIS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD MAN IS AN ENEMY OF GOD AND THAT HE IS WITHOUT PEACE.

We can see in these passages, in the stories of Scripture, in present-day experience that man being without peace with God leaves him without peace with his fellowmen. This is a very important point in facing the problems that we face today.

On these two points, cf. Rom. 5:10 and Eph. 2:14.

III. As was true in the case of propitiation, GOD IS THE

ONE WHO HAS TAKEN THE STEPS TO BRING ABOUT A RECONCILIATION.

Cf. 2 Cor. 5:18, 19. Both verses emphasize this truth.

We must be careful to note that the Scriptures do not teach us that God is reconciled to men -- only that man is reconciled to God.

- IV. GOD HAS BROUGHT ABOUT OUR RECONCILIATION THROUGH CHRIST. Re-read the 2 Cor. passage mentioned above.

Also read Rom. 5:10.

- V. CHRIST HAS AFFECTED RECONCILIATION BY HIS DEATH -- not primarily by His life, His teachings, or His works.

Cf. Rom. 5:10. *So reconciliation grows out of propitiation.*

- VI. A SEEMING CONTRADICTION: THAT THE WORLD HAS BEEN RECONCILED AND YET WE ARE TO CALL UPON MEN TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD.

Universalism has been one doctrine which has turned to this passage for support.

Others, to put down the universalists, have said that the world here only applies to the elect in the world.

Neither one is right.

Universalism is answered by 2 Cor. 5:20.

What is the answer?

It is that, because of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the wrath of God has been turned away from all men in all of the world so that they can be saved.

However, if man does not receive the offer of peace with God, then he has nothing to face but the execution of the eternal judgment of God!

This is the reason, ^{which} that we have the message that we do and the reason ^{is} given with it in 2 Cor. 5:20, 21.

- VII. RECONCILIATION BRINGS ABOUT TWO CHANGES:

- A. A change in man's relationship with God. We are through faith in Christ reconciled to God. This is the emphasis in Rom. 5:1.

- B. A change in man's relationship with man. This is a by-product of the first and not the main emphasis in the doctrine at all, but one which we need to see in these days when there is so much trouble among men -- and so many solutions being proposed.

See the truth in Eph. 2:16-18.

The greatest hatred that exists among men is that which we see in the world today between Jews and Gentiles. History also proves it. Remember World War II. The Scriptures also indicate it -- even in Rom. 11. The Great Tribulation will illustrate it again.

Peace with God brings peace with men, and there can be no peace with men until there is peace with God! But it must begin on the basis of individual reconciliation with God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- VIII. FURTHERMORE WITH RESPECT TO CHANGE, RECONCILIATION BRINGS MAN TO A PLACE OF REAL DELIGHT IN GOD. Cf. Rom. 5:10.

Every time you find a man revelling in his relationship with God through Christ you have evidence that he has been reconciled.

- IX. RECONCILIATION WITH GOD IS PERMANENT.

Both Romans and 2 Corinthians bring this out. Cf. Rom. 5:8-10 and 2 Cor. 5:20, 21.

Justification is used as an argument for the eternal character of reconciliation, as is the life of our Savior.

- X. RECONCILIATION IS OUR BUSINESS IN THE WORLD.

Cf. 2 Cor. 5:20. This is God's urgent entreaty to men through those of us who ~~are~~ reconciled.

Concl: In view of the last point I cannot close without asking what kind of ambassadors we are. Is the message of reconciliation anywhere near as important to us as the work of reconciliation was (and is) to God the Father and His Son?

Nor can I close without asking any here who are without Christ to be reconciled to God by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior.