

POINT: WE ARE ENLISTED IN SERVICE & ENTRUSTED WITH A MESSAGE! (2Cor.5:18-21)

INTRODUCTION: RECONCILED FRIENDS & ALIENATED ENEMIES (2Cor., chps.1-7 & 10-13)

I. AMBASSADORS (2Cor.5:20; see Eph.6:20)

A. MEANING: COMMISSIONED MESSENGERS (2C5:20a,b /Hb1:14; Dn8:16; Lk1:11f,26f /Jer1:9; 2Pt1:20,21)

B. EXAMPLES

1. *Delegation of Gibeonites* (Josh.9:3f; see Num.20:14f; Jdg.11:12f)
2. *Delegation to Hanun* (2Sam.10:2f,6f; 12:26-31; see 1Kngs.5:1; Mt.21:33f; Eph.6:20!)
3. *Delegate Naaman* (2Kngs.5:5f)
4. *Delegation from Sennacherib* (2Kings 19:23f; see c.18,19; see 18:31; Dt.20:10; Lk.14:32)

II. ON BEHALF OF CHRIST (2Cor.5:20a,b)

A. THE UNIVERSAL KING (Dan.7:13f; Acts 2:33; 5:31; 7:55f; Rom.8:34; Eph.1:20f; Col.3:1; Heb 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2; 1Pt.3:22; see Rev.7:17,etc.)

B. THE COMING JUDGE (2Cor.5:10f; see Ps.67:4; 82:8; 96:10,13; 98:9; 110:6; 135:14; Jn.5:22,27; Acts 17:31)

C. THE ONE ACCOMPLISHING RECONCILIATION (2Cor.5:19,21; see Rom.5:10; Eph.2:14f; Col.1:20f)

D. THE COMMISSIONING LORD (2C5:18,10 /Jer1:9; 3:12f; 2Chr36:15,16; Lk3:7; Mt28:18f; Rm5:6-11; Eph2:1f)

III. THE TERMS OF PEACE (2Cor.5:11-6:4f; 5:18,19,21; see Dt.20:10; 2Kngs.18:31; 2Cor.8:31)

A. DECLARATION OF WAR (*alienation*; 2Cor.5:10,11; see Gen.3:24; Rom.3:9f; Eph.2:1-3,12; Col.1:21)

B. DECLARATION OF PEACE (*reconciliation*; 2C5:18-21 /Heb9:1f; 10:19f /Rm3:21f; 5:1f; Eph2:4f,13f; Col.1:22)

1. *He reconciled us-world to Him & gave us the service of reconciliation* (2Cor.5:18,19; see Mk.10:45)
2. *He not counting trespasses against us all & committed to us the message of reconciliation* (2Cor.5:19b&c)
3. *He urges through us & we ambassadors of Christ pleading be reconciled* (2Cor.5:20a,b; see 8:4; Lk.15:28)
4. *the message of reconciliation: the wonderful exchange* (2Cor.5:21; Eph.6:19,20; 3:3f; see Gen.3:24; Heb.10:19f (c.9,10); see Lev.16:21; see 1Cor.11:23-26; 10:16)
5. note: receiving & giving reconciliation (2Cor.5:18-20; see 1Cor.9:22,23; 1Tm.4:16; Mt.6:15)

C. THE GOD OF PEACE & THE PEACE OF GOD (Rom.15:11; 16:20; Phil.4:9; 1Th.5:23; Heb.13:20 & Phil.4:7)

CONCLUSION: SEEK TO TURN ALIENATED ENEMIES INTO RECONCILED FRIENDS

(2Cor.5:19f; see Rom.5:10; Lk.6:27f)

A. PRAISE GOD FOR A SUCH A GLORIOUS & GOOD MESSAGE (2C5:16-21 /4:4-6,7f /2:16; 3:5f /Mt22:37f)

B. REMEMBER YOUR BAPTISM: APPOINTMENT, AUTHORITY & POWER (2Cor.5:17f; see Mt.28:18-20; see Lk.3:21-f; 4:14,18f; Acts 2:38f; 4:29-31; see Eph.4:11f; 1Tm.4:11f)

C. DELIVER HIS TERMS OF PEACE AND PLEAD FOR REPENTANCE & FAITH (2Cor.5:20,11; see Ps.2:12; 110:3; Ezk.18:31; 33:11; Phil.2:10,11; Eph.2:1-22; Lk.15:28; Mt.18:15)

D. WATCHMAN & AMBASSADOR: DEFENSE, APOLOGETICS, OBJECTIONS & OFFENCE, POLEMICS, INCENTIVES (Ezk.3:17; 33:1f vs. 2Cor.5:18-21; Mt.28:19; Acts 17:4; 18:4; 19:8,26; 28:23f)

POINT: WE MUST BE FOUND FAITHFUL TO OUR KING, HIS MESSAGE & HIS WORLD!

(2Cor.5:18-21; see 1Cor.4:1,2)

Discussion question:

*Brethren, what shall **WE do**?* (see Acts 2:37f)