

2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Why is Easter Sunday such a big deal?

1. Because it is in the events surrounding this Sunday morning that you and I could find peace with God.
2. All religion has at its core attempting to **ascend** a ladder to heaven...to peace with God
3. But in Jesus Christ, God **descended** the ladder to earth to live, die, and rise so that we could have perfect peace with God.

There may not be a more concise description of what happened than what we see here in 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

I have divided the text into 4 major points. Let's consider them together.

I. The Command v20

Our text begins with a command.

1. We beg you...be reconciled to God.
2. Some translations use the word implore or plead.
3. The Greek word literally means to admonish, beg, exhort.
4. In other words, we are begging you to heed this command...be reconciled to God.

Notice who issued this command

1. We, as ambassadors (messengers and representatives of Jesus Christ)...the Apostle Paul and Timothy who wrote this letter to the church at Corinth
2. God the Holy Spirit who inspired them...breathed out these words through their minds and pens
3. We also see God the Father alluded to...as though God were making an appeal through us!
4. We see Christ, God the Son, as well...we beg you on behalf of Christ.
5. Paul, Timothy, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are appealing to us, begging us to be reconciled to God.
6. Isn't this amazing!

We have God the Father making His appeal by the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul and Timothy on Behalf of Jesus Christ!

1. 1 Timothy 2:3-4 *This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*
2. How does this make you feel...that God so loves You and desires Your salvation that He would implore you, admonish you, and beg You to be reconciled to Him and be saved

Be reconciled to God!

1. This word reconcile means to make peace...to bring into a right and peaceful relationship
2. We see this need magnified in Romans 5 as we are described by 4 words: helpless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies.
3. Romans 5:6-11 *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while 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 this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*
4. As helpless, ungodly sinners under the just wrath of God, his enemies...we are commanded to be reconciled to God.
 - a. Not...God be reconciled to us.
 - b. We don't have a problem with God.
 1. God is not the one on trial here.
 2. He is not subject to us, or our opinions.
 - c. We don't have a problem with God. He has a problem with us! We must be reconciled to Him.
5. How? How can we be reconciled to God?

In some ineffable way, God loved us and yet was angry with us at the same time, until he became reconciled to us in Christ. John Calvin

II. The Hope v21

Him who knew no sin

1. Phil 2:5-8 *Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross*
 - a. He came to this earth, born apart from sin
 - b. He lives a sinless life never once falling to the world, the flesh, or the devil.
 - c. He never knew sin...it was foreign to Him!

To be sin

1. He had no concept of sin...no experience with it.
2. And He became sin! He became our sin!

Isa 53:4-12

1. He did this for us!
2. On our behalf he knew no sin—imputing righteousness to us
3. On our behalf he became sin—imputing judgment and justice
4. So that...we might become the righteousness of God IN HIM!

Our hope is in Christ!

1. He is the only one capable of reconciling us to the Father.
2. No priest, preacher, or parent...but only the Almighty Son of God!

III. The Response v1

Working together...the man of God with the Word of God and the Spirit of God

There are 3 ways to respond.

1. Not to respond

2. To Respond in Vain

- a. To respond in vain is to respond, but not hold fast.
- b. 1 Cor 15:1-2 *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you— unless you believed in vain.*
- c. The parable of the soils

3. To Respond Properly

- a. To effectively respond does not mean we get a flu shot.
- b. Or some sort of vaccination where we get just enough Christianity to make ourself immune to the real thing.
- c. Acts 26:20 *they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance*
- d. Luke 9:23 *And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

IV. The Urgency v2

Why the urgency? 2 reasons.

1. You will die and you will be judged.
2. Christ is going to return and you will be judged.
3. 2 Cor 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

Rev 20:11-15

You will stand before Christ. Your sin must be dealt with.

1. Either in Christ on the cross Or in you for eternity.
2. Run to Christ today!

I want to join Paul, Timothy, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in begging you, pleading with you to be reconciled to God through the life and death of Jesus Christ TODAY...right now.

Conclusion:

1. As we consider what we have heard today, if you are one of our people, begin praying now for those around you.
2. Do you need to come to the altar...or cross the aisle
3. Do you need to be reconciled to God? Are you a helpless, sinner, ungodly, enemy of God?
 - a. NOT join the church
 - b. NOT make you stand up in front or say anything or point you out
 - c. Someone to pray with you...someone to point you to Christ. Come now.

Discussion Questions

1. Take some time to review the sermon notes from Sunday.
2. Was there anything from this sermon that was difficult to understand or that didn't make sense to you? Discuss it with the group to try and get a better understanding.
3. What do we learn about God the Father....God the Son....and/or God the Holy Spirit from the main Scripture text that was used?
4. What do we learn about man from the main text?
5. Are there any commands to obey? Promises to believe? Sins to avoid in the main Scripture text?
6. What do you believe was the most impactful part of the sermon Sunday? Discuss.
7. How do you plan to apply some portion of what you learned to your life? For example, "In response to this sermon, I will _____"