

6/17/12

**SERIES: II CORINTHIANS: THE HEART AND HUMILITY OF A
MAN OF GOD, WEEK 22**

TITLE: RECONCILIATION!

TEXT: II CORINTHIANS 5:16-20

**INTRODUCTION: WE HAVE GLORIOUS GENUINE GOD-
GIVEN GOOD NEWS TODAY IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS
CHRIST.**

*** AND THE GLORIOUS GOD-GIVEN NEWS OF THE GOSPEL
IS THAT THE SIN-DEVASTATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
LOST SINNERS AND A HOLY GOD (WHOM IS WITHOUT SIN)
CAN BE RESTORED, RECONCILED.**

**** NOW AT FIRST GLANCE THAT APPEARS TO BE
IMPOSSIBLE.**

***** WHY? BECAUSE GOD'S PERFECT, INFINITE,
RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE DEMANDS THE PUNISHMENT OF ALL
WHO VIOLATE HIS LAW, WHICH CAN BE DEFINED AS SIN,
WHICH IS BREAKING GOD'S LAW, I JOHN 3:4.**

*****AND ALL OF US HAVE TRANSGRESSED, BROKEN GOD'S LAW, THEREFORE STANDING BEFORE THE BAR OF GOD'S JUSTICE WE ARE HELPLESS, HELL-BOUND, GUILTY SINNERS, UNABLE EITHER TO SATISFY GOD'S JUSTICE ON OUR OWN, OR TO CHANGE OUR CONDITION.**

(2) HOWEVER (AND HERE IS THE GOOD NEWS), THROUGH GOD'S PLAN OF RECONCILIATION ALL THE HOSTILITY, ALL THE SEPARATION, ALL THE ALIENATION DIVIDING, SEPARATING GOD AND SINNERS IS TAKEN CARE OF.

*** AND SINNERS WHOM WERE ONCE THE ENEMIES OF GOD, BECOME HIS FRIENDS. GOD IS THE RECONCILER AND SINNERS ARE THE ONES RECONCILED, SINCE IT WAS HUMAN SIN THAT RUPTURED, THAT SEVERED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN, QUOTE ISAIAH 59:2.**

**** THEREFORE, RECONCILIATION IS NOT SOMETHING MANKIND DOES OR EARNS OR WORKS FOR, BUT WHAT WE RECEIVE.**

***** IT IS NOT WHAT WE ACCOMPLISH, BUT WHAT WE EMBRACE.**

***** RECONCILIATION DOES NOT HAPPEN WHEN WE AS HUMANS, THE CREATION, DECIDE TO STOP REJECTING**

THE CREATOR, BUT WHEN GOD DECIDES TO STOP REJECTING US.

(3) BELOVED, RECONCILIATION IS A DIVINE PROVISION BY WHICH GOD'S HOT HOLY WRATH AND DISPLEASURE AGAINST SINNERS IS APPEASED, SATISFIED, PROPITIATED.

*** THROUGH RECONCILIATION, GOD'S HOSTILITY AGAINST SINNERS IS REMOVED AND A HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOLY GOD AND JUSTIFIED PEOPLE IS ESTABLISHED.**

**** THEN THERE IS PEACE. BEFORE THAT THERE WAS WAR, WE WERE THE ENEMIES OF GOD, ESTRANGED FROM HIM, BUT THROUGH JUSTIFICATION, THERE IS PEACE.**

***** HENCE, RECONCILIATION OCCURS ONLY BECAUSE GOD WAS WILLING TO DESIGN A PLAN TO HAVE ALL THE SINS OF THOSE WHOM HE WILL SAVE, REMOVED.**

****** AND IN THAT PLAN, GOD RECONCILES BELIEVERS TO HIMSELF THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

(4) AND GOD THE SON'S PERFECT COMPLETED SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF ON THE CROSS IS THE ONLY MEANS, CHRIST IS THE ONLY ONE THAT COULD SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF GOD THE FATHER'S HOLY JUSTICE.

HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN BRIDGE THE HUGE GAP, THE HUGE CHASM BETWEEN A HOLY GOD AND SINFUL PEOPLE. THE BARRIER CAN ONLY BE REMOVED BY WHAT JESUS DID IN HIS DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

*** THEREFORE GOD IS ENABLED TO DEAL WITH LOST SOULS IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT CHRIST HAS ACCOMPLISHED.**

**** AND WHEN A PERSON BY SOVEREIGN GRACE SEES AND TRUSTS IN THE VALUE OF CHRIST'S ATONING DEATH, THAT PERSON BECOMES RECONCILED TO GOD, AND THE HOSTILITY, THE ALIENATION IS REMOVED, AND FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP FOLLOW.**

***** RECONCILIATION IS A GREAT N.T. TRUTH AND A GREAT WORD AND IS A THEME OF OUR TEXT TODAY IN VV. 18-20 AS THIS TERM APPEARS IN DIFFERENT FORMS 5 TIMES.**

****** THUS I'VE TITLED OUR SERMON FOR TODAY, RECONCILIATION, EXCLAMATION POINT!**

(5) AND WE'LL LOOK AT TWO MAIN POINTS AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH II CORINTHIANS 5:16-20.

*** NO. 1 WE'LL SEE THE TRANSFORMATION IN VV. 16&17; AND NO. 2 THE TRUTH OF RECONCILIATION IN VV. 18-20.**

**** AND WITH THOSE TWO POINTS TO DIRECT US TODAY, LOOK AT V. 16 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE TRANSFORMATION.**

I. THE TRANSFORMATION, (READ V. 16)

A. NOW TO UNDERSTAND VV. 16&17 CONTEXTUALLY, WE MUST GO BACK TO VV. 14&15 AS THE CONJUNCTION THEREFORE, WHEREFORE AND SO FROM, DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE TAKE US BACK TO THESE VERSES.

*** AND THESE WORDS POINT US BACK TO VV. 14&15 WHICH DESCRIBE GOD'S LOVE, CHRIST'S DEATH AND HOW WE SHOULD LIVE AS A RESULT OF GOD'S WORK OF SALVATION IN US.**

**** IT IS TO SAY, AS WE LINK THE TEACHING OF GOD'S LOVE AND CHRIST'S DEATH AND IT'S IMPACT ON US IN SAVING US AND CHANGING OUR LIVES, TRANSFORMING OUR LIVES, WE LIVE DIFFERENTLY, WE HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF LIFE AND THINGS.**

***** THEREFORE, WHEREFORE, SO FROM NOW ON, WE RECOGNIZE NO ONE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.**

****** MEANING PAUL, IN GOD CHANGING AND TRANSFORMING HIM NO LONGER LOOKED OR VIEWED OR JUDGED PEOPLE THE WAY HE USED TO.**

1. PAUL NO LONGER USES A WORLDLY POINT OF VIEW (THE PHRASE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH) TO LOOK AT OR JUDGE PEOPLE BY APPEARANCES, HUMAN CREDENTIALS, SOCIAL STATUS BY WEALTH OR RACE.

*** PAUL IS SAYING WE NO LONGER JUDGE PEOPLE IN A CARNAL FLESHLY WAY. HIS WAY TO ASSESS PEOPLE PURELY FROM A HUMAN STANDPOINT HAD CHANGED SINCE THE DAMASCUS ROAD WHEN GOD SAVED HIM.**

**** AND THAT IS WHAT CONVERSION DOES, WE NO LONGER LOOK AT LIFE AND PEOPLE THE WAY WE USED TO.**

***** WE NO LONGER EVALUATE PEOPLE BASED ON EXTERNAL WORLD STANDARDS LIKE THE FALSE TEACHERS AT CORINTH.**

****** AND PAUL'S PREJUDICE AGAINST GENTILES AS A JEW, AND HIS HATRED TOWARD CERTAIN PEOPLE GROUPS GAVE WAY TO LOVE FOR ALL, INCLUDING "GREEK AND JEW, CIRCUMCISED AND UNCIRCUMCISED, BARBARIAN, SCYTHIAN, SLAVE AND FREEMAN," COLOSSIANS 3:11.**

2. BUT NOT ONLY DID PAUL'S VIEW OF PEOPLE CHANGE BY GOD'S LOVE AND CHRIST'S DEATH IN SAVING HIM.

*** BUT ALSO HIS VIEW OF CHRIST CHANGED. FOR HIS VIEW OF CHRIST AND HIS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CHRIST BEFORE HIS SALVATION WAS THAT JESUS WAS A MAN, NOT THE MESSIAH, NOT THE GOD-MAN, BUT WAS A FALSE TEACHER, A FALSE MESSIAH, A REBEL AGAINST JUDAISM AND ONE WORTHY OF DEATH.**

**** HE KNEW ABOUT CHRIST IN A CARNAL FLESHLY HUMAN WAY. PAUL HATED JESUS AND PERSECUTED HIS FOLLOWERS AS SAUL OF TARSUS.**

***** HOWEVER, THE TRANSFORMATION IN PAUL'S VIEW OF JESUS CHRIST RADICALLY CHANGED IN ONE BLINDING MOMENT WHEN HE MET THE RISEN LORD JESUS ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD AND WAS SAVED.**

****** AND WHEN HIS VIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF JESUS CHANGED, WHEN HE WAS SAVED EVERYTHING CHANGED AND WAS TRANSFORMED.**

3. AND WHEN PAUL'S ASSESSMENT OF JESUS CHANGED, SO DID HIS ASSESSMENT AND VIEWS OF EVERYONE ELSE.

*** AND THAT'S WHY PAUL SAID IN THE END OF V. 6, SPEAKING OF JESUS, "YET NOW WE KNOW HIM (JESUS) IN THIS WAY NO LONGER."**

**** THROUGH CONVERSION-SALVATION, THROUGH GOD'S WORK OF REGENERATION INWARDLY, PAUL NO LONGER VIEWED JESUS AS A MAN, BUT THE GOD-MAN, THE MESSIAH, THE LORD GOD, THE ONLY SAVIOR.**

***** AND AS A RESULT OF GOD'S SAVING GRACE, PAUL'S LIFE WAS TRANSFORMED, HE BECAME A NEW CREATION, HIS VIEWS, HIS JUDGMENTS, HIS LIFE WAS RADICALLY CHANGED. LOOK AT V. 17 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 17. NOW THE WORD THEREFORE AGAIN IS THE CONNECTOR TO V. 16 AND ALSO IS A CONCLUSION TO WHAT PAUL SAID IN VV. 14&15 ABOUT WHAT THE LOVE OF CHRIST AND DEATH OF CHRIST DID FOR HIM, FOR PAUL DIED AND WAS RAISED TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE IN VERSE 14B.

*** AND IF A PERSON IS "IN CHRIST", A PHRASE PAUL REPEATEDLY USES TO TALK ABOUT A CHRISTIAN'S BEING IN VITAL UNION WITH CHRIST, SPEAKING OF A BELIEVERS SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, PLACE INTO CHRIST AT SALVATION.**

**** AND EVERYONE THAT IS TRULY "IN CHRIST" BECOMES A NEW CREATURE, A NEW CREATION, A NEW PERSON.**

***** AND THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE OLD WRONG DESIRES TO DEAL WITH OR THAT WE NO LONGER DEAL WITH THE FLESH.**

****** HOWEVER, NOW WE HAVE NEW DESIRES, HOLY AFFECTIONS, AND ARE GIVEN A NEW NATURE LIKE CHRIST'S. WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES OF SIN, FOR WE HAVE DIED, GOING BACK TO V. 14 OF THIS CHAPTER, ALL DIED IN CHRIST AND HAVE BEEN MADE TO WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE.**

1. BELOVED, CHRISTIANS ARE BRAND NEW PEOPLE, THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE, AND WE ARE NOT REFORMED, REHABILITATED OR REEDUCATED, WE ARE RECREATED – A NEW CREATION.

*** AND AT SALVATION BELIEVERS ARE NOT MERELY TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF; WE ARE BEGINNING A NEW LIFE UNDER A NEW MASTER.**

**** THEREFORE GOING BACK TO V. 16, PAUL'S VIEWS CHANGED OF OTHER PEOPLE AND OF COURSE OF CHRIST, HE LOOKED AT LIFE NOT THROUGH CARNAL EYES OR FLESHLY EYES, BUT SPIRITUAL ETERNAL EYES.**

***** AND THE TRANSFORMING THAT STARTS AT NEW BIRTH LEADING TO CONVERSION LEADS US PERSONALLY TO GROW IN SANCTIFICATION, THE**

DIRECTION OF ONE'S LIFE CHANGES, WE COME BACK TO THAT EVEN THOUGH WE STRAY AND FOLLOW AFAR OFF AT TIMES.

****** BUT NOTICE OLD THINGS PASS AWAY, HAVE PASSED AWAY, WE ARE NOT WHAT WE WERE.**

2. OLD VIEWS, OLD IDEAS, OLD VALUES, OLD PLANS AND EVEN THINGS WE USED TO LOVE CHANGE AND ARE REPLACED BY NEW THINGS THAT ACCOMPANY SALVATION.

*** AND NOTE THAT THE VERB TRANSLATED "HAVE COME" OR "HAS COME" IS IN THE PERFECT TENSE IN THE GREEK WHICH INDICATES A PAST ACT WITH CONTINUING RESULTS IN THE PRESENT.**

**** AND FROM OUR CONVERSION ON, THE NEW HAS COME, A NEW WAY OF LIVING HAS COME INTO EXISTENCE AND AS WE GROW IN GRACE, MORE NEW THINGS COME, WE ARE CHANGED, WE ARE TRANSFORMED.**

***** AND THAT TRANSFORMATION LEADS US TO THE GREAT TRUTH OF RECONCILIATION. SO WE MOVE FROM TRANSFORMATION IN VV. 16&17 TO TRUTH IN VV. 18-20. LOOK AT V. 18 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE TRUTH.**

II. THE TRUTH, (READ V. 18)

A. NOW THE PHRASE TO BEGIN WITH IN V. 18 “ALL THESE THINGS” OR “ALL THIS IS FROM GOD,” TAKE US BACK TO THE CONTEXT OF TOTAL TRANSFORMATION IN VV. 16&17.

*** AND ALL THESE THINGS THAT COME IN THE WORK OF TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SALVATION IN OUR LIVES COMES FROM GOD. HE IS THE SOURCE, IT IS HIS WORK OF GRACE THAT BRINGS SALVATION WHICH LEADS TO TRANSFORMATION TAKING PLACE.**

**** FOR UNSAVED UNREGENERATE PEOPLE HAVE NO ABILITY TO BE SAVED OR TRANSFORMED BY THEIR OWN SELF EFFORT, SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS OR SELF-DISCIPLINE.**

***** ONLY GOD ALONE CAN INITIATE SALVATION AND THE RECONCILIATION OF SINNERS. GOD MUST SEEK THE SINNER. FOR ONLY GOD CAN REMOVE THE ALIENATION, THE WALL THAT SEPARATES US FROM HIM.**

****** THIS RECONCILIATION IS NOT SOMETHING THAT MAN DOES BUT WHAT HE RECEIVES.**

******* FOR GOD MUST BE THE FIRST CAUSE FOR PEOPLE TO BE IN CHRIST. AND THAT’S WHY I CORINTHIANS 1:30 SAYS: “BUT BY HIS DOING YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO BECAME TO US WISDOM FROM GOD, AND**

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SANCTIFICATION, AND REDEMPTION.”

1. BELOVED GOD IS A SAVING GOD, A SEEKING SAVIOR WHO LOVES TO SAVE PEOPLE AND THAT’S WHY IT SAYS AS WE MOVE ON IN V. 18, “WHO RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST.”

*** GOD IS THE RECONCILER AND THIS INCREDIBLE STATEMENT REVEALS GOD’S INFINITE, GREAT, SACRIFICIAL LOVE.**

*** FOR OUR SIN ALIENATED US FROM GOD. WE WERE ESTRANGED FROM GOD AND HIS ENEMIES, HIS FOES.**

**** FOR WE OFFENDED GOD BY BREAKING HIS COMMANDS AND SINNING AGAINST HIM. WE PUT THE WALL UP, WE WERE SEPARATED FROM HIM, WE WERE THE OFFENDERS.**

***** THEREFORE YOU WOULD THINK THAT THE INITIATIVE FOR RECONCILIATION SHOULD HAVE COME FROM US, THE OFFENDING PARTY.**

****** HOWEVER, THE SCRIPTURES COMMUNICATE THAT GOD, AS THE OFFENDED PARTY, TOOK THE INITIATIVE AND REACHED OUT TO US TO ACHIEVE RESTORATION OF RELATIONSHIP.**

2. HENCE, GOD THE OFFENDED ONE, NOT THE OFFENDER, MADE THE FIRST MOVE WAS THE FIRST CAUSE, HE INITIATED, HE TOOK THE LEAD AND COMPLETED THE WORK OF RECONCILIATION BEFORE, WE, AS SINNERS COULD COME TO HIM AND BE RECONCILED.

*** AND THIS IS CLEARLY SEEN IN ROMANS 5:6-11 WHERE IT SAYS:**

V. 6 – FOR WHILE WE WERE STILL HELPLESS, AT THE RIGHT TIME CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGODLY.

V. 7 – FOR ONE WILL HARDLY DIE FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN; THOUGH PERHAPS FOR THE GOOD MAN SOMEONE WOULD DARE EVEN TO DIE.

V. 8 – BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE TOWARD US, IN THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

V. 9 – MUCH MORE THEN, HAVING NOW BEEN JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, WE SHALL BE SAVED FROM THE WRATH OF GOD THROUGH HIM.

V. 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.

V. 11 – AND NOT ONLY THIS, BUT WE ALSO EXULT IN GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHOM WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED THE RECONCILIATION.

**** NOW WHAT WAS OUR STATUS BEFORE SALVATION? WE WERE GOD’S ENEMIES. SO WHO WAS THE OFFENDER AND WHO WAS THE OFFENDED?**

***** WELL, WE ARE THE OFFENDERS AND GOD IS THE OFFENDED. AND WE WERE HELPLESS IN ROMANS 5:6 THEREFORE CHRIST DIED FOR THE UNGODLY IN ROMANS 5:6.**

****** THUS GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE TOWARD US THAT WHILE WE WERE YET SINNERS CHRIST DIED FOR US, PAUL IS WRITING TO BELIEVERS AT ROME, US. AND WE ARE RECONCILED THROUGH THE DEATH OF GOD’S SON –JESUS.**

3. THEREFORE AS WE GO BACK TO II CORINTHIANS 5:18, GOD RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST. THAT’S WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR SINNERS LIKE US THAT HAVE BEEN SAVED. HE INITIATED THE RECONCILIATION AS WE WERE ESTRANGED, SEPARATED FROM HIM.

*** AND BECAUSE GOD RECONCILES SINNERS, US, WE THAT ARE TRUE CHRISTIANS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, WE THAT HAVE BEEN RECONCILED, THE LAST PART OF**

V. 18, “GOD THEN GAVE TO US THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION.”

**** GOD HAS CALLED US, THE RECONCILED, PAUL, HIS CO-LABORERS AND ALL BELIEVERS TO BE ENGAGED IN A RESTORATIVE MINISTRY BY PROCLAIMING, TEACHING, COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL.**

***** BELOVED, ALL OF US ARE CALLED TO COMMUNICATE THE MESSAGE, THE GOOD NEWS OF RECONCILIATION. THE GOSPEL THEN IS NOT GOOD ADVICE BUT GOOD NEWS THAT GOD RECONCILES SINNERS, GOD SAVES SINNERS.**

****** AND GOD HAS COMMITTED TO THOSE THAT ARE RECONCILED, THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNICATE THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION. LOOK AT V. 19 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 19. NOW THE FIRST WORD IN V. 19, THE ADVERB “NAMELY” IN THE NAS, “THAT IS” IN THE ESV AND NKJV AND “THAT” IN THE NIV INTRODUCES PAUL’S EXPLANATION OF HOW GOD WAS IN CHRIST RECONCILING THE WORLD TO HIMSELF.

*** AND THE PHRASE “IN CHRIST” HERE ALONG WITH THE PHRASE “THROUGH CHRIST” IN V. 18, COMMUNICATE, THEY POINT TO JESUS CHRIST AS THE AGENT OF RECONCILIATION.**

**** AND GOD'S PURPOSE THROUGH CHRIST WAS TO RECONCILE PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.**

***** FOR IF THE WORLD MEANT EVERYONE, THEN PAUL WAS TEACHING UNIVERSALISM, THE FALSE TEACHING THAT IN THE END EVERYONE WILL BE SAVED OR RECONCILED TO GOD.**

****** BUT THE WORD WORLD MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AS REFERRING TO MANKIND IN GENERAL, PEOPLE FROM EVERY NATION, RACE AND ETHNIC GROUP.**

******* JEWS, GENTILES, SLAVE, FREE, RICH AND POOR, ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE.**

1. BELOVED, WORLD IN THIS CONTEXT INDICATES THE SPHERE IN WHICH RECONCILIATION TAKES PLACE; IT COMMUNICATES THE CLASS OF BEING OF PEOPLE WHOM GOD SEEKS RECONCILIATION, PEOPLE FROM EVERY NATION, RACE AND TONGUE.

*** AS JOHN MACARTHUR SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY ON II CORINTHIANS AND I QUOTE: "CHRIST DID NOT DIE FOR ALL MEN WITHOUT EXCEPTION, BUT FOR ALL MEN WITHOUT DISTINCTION."**

**** SO THE WORLD MUST BE INTERPRETED BY CONTEXT AND IN THIS CONTEXT CHRIST THE AGENT OF RECONCILIATION IS RECONCILING NOT EVERYONE, BUT**

ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE WITHOUT DISTINCTION TO HIMSELF.

***** NOW THIS IS FURTHER COMMUNICATED BY THE REST OF V. 19, “NOT COUNTING THEIR TRESPASSES AGAINST THEM.”**

****** AND THIS PHRASE REVEALS THE MEANS OF RECONCILIATION – THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

2. AND NOT EVERYONE’S SINS ARE FORGIVEN, ONLY THOSE IN CHRIST AND THROUGH CHRIST. AND IF THE WORLD MEANT EVERYONE, THEN EVERYONE’S SINS WOULD BE FORGIVEN AND EVERYONE WOULD BE SAVED, AGAIN TEACHING UNIVERSALISM.

*** BUT PEOPLE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD ONLY THROUGH CHRIST AND FORGIVENESS IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE “IN CHRIST.”**

**** AND ONLY THROUGH CHRIST, AGAIN THE AGENT OF RECONCILIATION, CAN THE GUILT OF SIN BE FORGIVEN.**

***** AND ONLY BY HAVING THE GUILT OF SIN FORGIVEN CAN SINNERS BE RECONCILED TO GOD, SINCE IT IS SIN THAT SEPARATES, THAT ALIENATES PEOPLE FROM GOD.**

****** NOW GET THIS. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST, FOR THOSE WHOM GOD DOES NOT COUNT OUR TRESPASSES, A WORD FOR SIN AGAINST US, TO THOSE PEOPLE IN CHRIST, GOD HAS COMMITTED TO US (BELIEVERS, PAUL, HIS ASSOCIATES) THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION.**

3. WE HAVE THE MESSAGE, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE CHANGING GOSPEL THAT PEOPLE CAN BE RECONCILED TO GOD, WE HAVE THAT MESSAGE GIVEN TO US, THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION.

*** AND THIS MESSAGE IS NOT “RECONCILE YOURSELVES” THAT WE GIVE TO PEOPLE, BUT “BE RECONCILED.” RECEIVE RECONCILIATION FROM GOD.**

**** AND BELIEVER, IN A WORLD OF FALSE RELIGION, WE PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE ABOUT THE ONLY WAY THAT PEOPLE CAN BE RECONCILED TO GOD, SO GOD DOES NOT HOLD THEIR SIN AGAINST THEM AND THEY PAY FOR THEIR SIN FOR ETERNITY IN HELL.**

***** WE HAVE A COMMISSION HERE TO PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION, WHAT A PRIVILEGE, FOR WE HAVE BEEN RECONCILED.**

****** THEREFORE WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST. LOOK AT V. 20 PLEASE.**

C. READ V. 20. NOW WE THAT HAVE BEEN RECONCILED BY GOD'S SOVEREIGN GRACE BY FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE ARE THE AMBASSADORS OF CHRIST PLEADING WITH SINNERS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD.

*** AND WHEN WE PROCLAIM THAT MESSAGE WE ARE SPEAKING FOR GOD, HE IS SPEAKING THROUGH US, SO WE ARE HIS VOICE, HIS HERALD, HIS MESSENGERS, HIS MOUTH PIECES.**

**** IN FACT, PAUL USES THE WORD AMBASSADOR HERE TO TALK ABOUT OUR COMMISSION FROM OUR GOD.**

***** AND THE GREEK WORD FOR AMBASSADOR HERE COMES FROM A WORD THAT IS A FORM OF THE WORD ELDER SPEAKING OF AN OLDER MAN.**

****** FOR AMBASSADORS IN ANCIENT TIMES WERE USUALLY OLDER EXPERIENCED MEN, REPRESENTING THEIR RULER, A MINISTER OF STATE.**

1. AND AN AMBASSADOR DID NOT SPEAK IN HIS OWN NAME OR ACT ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY, NOR DID HIS MESSAGE ORIGINATE IN HIM BUT FROM HIS SOVEREIGN, HIS KING WHOM HE REPRESENTED.

*** AND THE APPLICATION IS CLEAR, WE DON'T COME IN OUR OWN AUTHORITY, BUT OUR KING'S – CHRIST, WE DON'T SPEAK IN OUR NAME, BUT HIS, AND WE DON'T COME WITH OUR OWN MESSAGE, BUT SPEAK FOR OUR KING IN GIVING HIS MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION.**

**** AND BECAUSE WE THE RECONCILED ARE GOD'S AMBASSADORS, IT IS AS THOUGH GOD WERE MAKING AN APPEAL TO SINNERS THROUGH US. AGAIN WE SPEAK FOR HIM, HE SPEAKS THROUGH US TO SINNERS.**

***** AND IN DOING THAT WE BEG, WE PLEAD, WE MAKE A PASSIONATE PLEA ON BEHALF OF SAVIOR GOD FOR SINNERS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD.**

****** AND BELOVED, THIS IS THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO WILL BE SAVED, ONLY GOD HAS ORDAINED AND KNOW THAT.**

2. BUT WITH A HEART THAT IS BURDENED FOR SINNERS, FOR A HEART THAT HAS BEEN RECONCILED TO GOD IS AFLAME WITH PASSION AND BURDENED FOR OTHERS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD.

*** AND THIS IS THE ADMONITION THAT PAUL GIVES TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH IN OBEYING THE GREAT COMMISSION AS THAT IS FOR THEM TO COMMUNICATE**

**THE MESSAGE TO PEOPLE TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD,
TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.**

**** AND THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE MESSAGE WE
PROCLAIM, FOR PAUL IS NOT CALLING THE CORINTHIANS
TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD, FOR THEY HAVE ALREADY
BEEN RECONCILED, HE IS CALLING THEM TO PROCLAIM
THIS MESSAGE, FOR THERE IS NO YOU IN THE GREEK.**

****** THE TRANSLATION IS OR THE MESSAGE IS, WE BEG
ON BEHALF OF CHRIST, BE RECONCILED TO GOD.**

**IN WRAP UP: (1) CHRISTIAN, THAT IS OUR MESSAGE. IT IS
NOT A COLD MESSAGE OF HYPER CALVINISM, BUT A
HEARTFELT PASSIONATE CALL THAT BEGS PEOPLE TO
BE SAVED.**

*** AND YES GOD WILL ULTIMATELY SAVE HIS ELECT, BUT
WE ARE THE ONES HE USES AS THE MEANS TO THE END
OF SAVING PEOPLE. FOR GOD SAVES SINNERS, WHAT
GOOD NEWS! GOD RECONCILES SINNERS!**

**** AND CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOTIVATING FACTORS
TO BE PASSIONATE IN EVANGELISM IS THAT GOD
RECONCILED US, SO WE ARE BURDENED TO BE USED BY
GOD TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SIN.**

***** SO BY PRIVILEGE, BY DEBT, BY RESPONSIBILITY AND OBEDIENCE, BY BURDEN, BY JOY OF DECLARING THAT OUR GOD RECONCILED HIMSELF TO SINNERS, WE SHOULD PASSIONATELY CALL PEOPLE TO CHRIST. IT SHOULD BE A GREAT JOY AND BURDEN.**

****** I MEAN WE THAT HAVE BEEN RECONCILED BY GOD ARE HIS AMBASSADORS, HIS REPRESENTATIVES, HIS SPOKESPEOPLE, HIS SERVANTS. HE IS OUR KING, WE ARE HIS AMBASSADORS.**

(2) AND BELOVED, WE PASSIONATELY AS A CHURCH SHOULD FULFILL THAT MISSION THAT CHRIST HAS GIVEN TO HIS CHURCH.

*** AND IF YOU HAVE COME INTO THIS ROOM TODAY AND HAVE NOT BEEN CHANGED FROM WITHIN BY RECEIVING FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.**

**** THEN YOUR GREATEST NEED IS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH THE AGENT OF RECONCILIATION, JESUS CHRIST.**

***** YOU IN YOUR STATE, ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD, YOU ARE ALIENATED, YOU ARE HIS ENEMY, YOU ARE ESTRANGED FROM GOD AND YOU ARE AT WAR WITH HIM AND HAVE NO PEACE.**

****** UNDERSTAND, RECONCILIATION IS BASED UPON IMPUTATION; BECAUSE THE DEMANDS OF GOD'S HOLY LAW HAVE BEEN FULLY MET BY CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS, THEREFORE GOD CAN BE RECONCILED TO SINNERS.**

(3) THEREFORE TURN FROM YOUR SIN TO THE SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST TODAY AND BE RECONCILED TO GOD, AND THEN BECOME HIS AMBASSADOR. (LET'S PRAY)