

071022P

INTRODUCTION

1. God's acts & words. As we minister God's words, God acts - 2C5:18-19. The message of reconciliation is contentless w/o God's reconciling activity.

2. What God, in Christ, did, has ongoing continued action as His Word of reconciliation is ministered. God reconciles sinners today, based on *the reconciliation* accomplished by Christ on the cross - Rm 5:8-11
 - i. Objective reconciliation in Christ is applied to us subjectively by Holy Spirit which we receive by faith & thereby experience reconciliation.

 - ii. Having been reconciled, we now play a part in God's purposes for the cosmos - 2C6:1a.

3. Today: *reconciling the world to Himself*. "Save the planet" - with a salvation defined by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1st: The Reconciliation of the World

1. Rm 8:19-23 creation is good but cursed

2. We, w/ creation, *groan & wait eagerly* - w/ hope [v24-25] b/c we have 1stfruit of HS who guarantees res of bodies = liberation of cosmos from death.

3. Cosmos is *subject to futility*, a kind of enmity w/ Creator, needs redemption

2nd: Reconciled in Christ

1. Col 1:19-20 Resurrected Jesus: Creator [v16]; Lord [v17]; Divine Redeemer of church. Entire cosmos is beneficiary of His cross-work.

2. Jesus' resurrected body guarantees the liberation of the cosmos - a liberation begun in us - Col 1:21-23. We are *1st fruits among His creatures* [Jms 1:18]. Eschatological liberation has begun: Jesus' resurrection; our regeneration - sanctification -> our resurrection & glorification of cosmos.

3rd: Reconciled to Himself

1. 1C15:21-28 *God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself & God will be all in all*. The vocabulary of fullness - abundance of life.

2. God's reconciliation excludes nothing. Only the Creator can save the planet.

Applic #1: The Realism of Kingdom Inversion

1. God chooses & uses foolish, weak, base nobodies & nothings. We walk by faith trusting God's promises, not our perceptions.

2. Ab's land of Canaan = type of cosmos - Rm 4:13 *heir of the world*.

3. Jesus' resurrected body = guarantee of the resurrected cosmos.

4. Lk 13:18-21

Applic #2: The Necessity of Judgment

1. Salvation thru Jdgmnt - 2Ptr 3:10-13

2. Will Jesus "save the planet?" Yes - thru jdgmnt of fire - Lk 3:16-17

Applic #3: God is Active in Our Ministry of Reconciliation

1. Our fidelity to this word of reconciliation issues into the glorious eternal Sabbath Life of resurrection splendor & *all thgs will be subjected to Him so that God may be all in all*. AMEN