

1 **GOD'S SALVATION PACKAGE: RECONCILIATION**

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

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- *Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation*

3 **2 Corinthians 5:20-21**

- ²⁰ *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

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5 **WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?**

- The Problem – We are alienated from God –
 - Isaiah 59:2: *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you.*
- Reconciliation is the restoration of a ruptured relationship.

6 **John Claypool book, *The Preaching Event***

- Twin Brothers:
 - Never married - Enjoyed one another's company
 - Father died – They took over his store.
 - Ran it together in a joyful collaboration.

7 **Ruptured Relationship**

- One day customer made small purchase for \$1.00
- Brother who made the sale placed it on the cash register
- Saw customer to the door.
- When he returned, the dollar bill was gone.
- Said to twin brother, "Did you take the dollar bill?"
- "No, I didn't!"
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8 **Ruptured Relationship**

- Argument followed – Mistrust and suspicion grew
- Could no longer work together – Partition – 2 stores
- In anger, they refused to speak for 20 years
- The Stranger enters:
 - "Have you been in business very long?" "Yes, 20 or 30 years." "Good. I need to tell you something: 20 years ago I was here – out of work – homeless – No money – hadn't eaten."

9 **Reconciliation**

- I slipped in and took that dollar bill.
- "Recently I became a Christian – I now realize it was wrong for me to steal that dollar – I've come

to pay you back with interest."

- Old storekeeper began to weep, "Would you please come next door and tell that story to my brother?"
- Two brothers reconciled – healing came – Reconciliation came.

10 **Reconciliation with God**

- Reconciliation is the restoration of a ruptured relationship.
- Our relationship with God was ruptured & broken when man sinned in the Garden of Eden.
- Reconciliation refers to the change in relationship between God and man – No longer enemies & children of wrath
- Now through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, we are reconciled to God.

11 **WHY DO WE NEED TO BE RECONCILED? (1)**

- Romans 5:6-8: *For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

12 **WHY DO WE NEED TO BE RECONCILED? (2)**

Romans 5:9-11 : ⁹ *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰ For if when 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 that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

13 **WHY DO WE NEED TO BE RECONCILED? (1)**

- Man is weak, ". . .we were without strength"
 - Result of his depraved nature by birth
 - He sins because that is his nature.
 - Unable to resist sin or do the works of righteousness that are acceptable to God

14 **WHY DO WE NEED TO BE RECONCILED? (2)**

Man is Worthless, ". . . Christ died for the ungodly."
 – William Barclay commentary on Romans – incident in the life of T. E. Lawrence
 – Lawrence of Arabia.

15 **Desperation**

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- Traveling across desert with Arab army to attack Aqaba from the rear
- Food, Water almost gone
- Hot weather – strong wind – blowing sand
- Where is Jasmin?

16 **Who is Jasmin?**

- He killed a Turkish tax collector & fled to the desert
- "Look! Jasmin's camel has no rider. His rifle is strapped to the saddle, but Jasmin is not there."

- “Someone has shot him on the march.”
- “He is not strong in the head; perhaps he is lost in a mirage.”
- “He is not strong in the body; perhaps he has fainted and fallen off his camel.”
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17 **Worthless Jasmin (1)**

- Conclusion: No matter - Jasmin was not worth half a crown (US\$0.21).
- The Arabs hunched themselves up on their camels and rode on.
- The Arabs looked in amazement at Lawrence - “There is Jasmin - not worth half a crown – Our lord, Lawrence, is risking his own life to save him.”

18 **Worthless Jasmin (2)**

- Lawrence turned and rode back the way they had come.
- Alone in the blazing heat – at risk of his own life
- After hour and a half ride, he saw something in the sand - It was Jasmin – blind, mad with heat and thirst – Jasmin being murdered by the desert
- Lawrence lifted him up on his camel, gave him the last drops of his water, and slowly plodded back to his company. He had saved worthless Jasmin!
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19 **A True Story**

- It was not good men Christ died to save – worthless men & ungodly men – Jesus died to rescue them – to rescue you and me.
 - He endured the temptations & assaults of Satan.
 - During His earthly ministry, foxes had holes, and birds had nests, but Jesus had no where to lay his head.
 - In the Garden of Gethsemane He drank the last bitter dregs of the cup and went to the cross to save a worthless soul like me.

20 **WHY DO WE NEED TO BE RECONCILED? (2)**

- Man is Wrong, v. 8 – “. . . while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - Sin is missing the mark.
 - Sin is taking the wrong road – Matthew 7:13-14: *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*
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21 **WHY DO WE NEED TO BE RECONCILED? (3)**

- Man is Under Wrath, v. 9 – “. . . we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ”
 - Clear Declaration – to be reconciled means to be *“saved from wrath through Him (Jesus Christ).”*
 - Big Mistake – Thinking God is a God of love and mercy so we can ignore Bible teaching about justice and judgment of God.
 - John 3:36: *“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”*
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22 **WHY DO WE NEED TO BE RECONCILED? (4)**

- Man is Wicked, v. 10 – *"We were enemies. . ."*
 - The Bible declares that apart from Christ, we are all enemies of God.
 - Jesus is our best friend because He laid down His life to save us.
 - When we reject God's Son as our Savior, we make ourselves a rebel and an enemy of God.
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23 WHO INITIATED RECONCILIATION?

- Impossible for man to initiate reconciliation with God:
 - Proven emphatically by Romans 3:10-18. . .

24 Romans 3:10-13

- *There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one." ¹³ Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit", "The poison of asps is under their lips"*

25 Romans 3:14-18

- *"¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways; ¹⁷ And the way of peace they have not known." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

26 WHO INITIATED RECONCILIATION?

- Reconciliation is God's unilateral act in bringing peace in His relationship with lost humanity.
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19: *"Now all things are of God who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ. . . ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them. . ."*

27 WHO ACCOMPLISHED RECONCILIATION? (1)

- Romans 5:6-10
 - V. 6: *Christ died for the ungodly.*
 - V. 8: *While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
 - V. 9: *We shall be saved from wrath through Him.*
 - V. 10: *We were reconciled to God through the death of His Son.*
 - V. 10: *We shall be saved by His life.*

28 WHO ACCOMPLISHED RECONCILIATION? (2)

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-21
 - V. 18: *God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ*
 - V. 19: *God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself*
 - V. 21: *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

29 St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin

30 The Feud

- Beautiful edifice
- Interesting piece of history:
 - A hole in the center of the door

- 1492 – Ormands & Kildares – bitter feud
- Earl of Ormand took refuge in St. Patrick's Cathedral

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31 **The Feud (2)**

- Earl of Kildare decided the feuding was foolish - Wanted to end the feud – Two families worshiping the same God, same church, same country, trying to kill each other.
- Earl of Kildare called out to the Earl of Ormand – pledged not to seek revenge or indulge in villainy – Wanted the Ormands to come out and the feud would be over.

32 **The Feud (3)**

- The Earl of Ormand was convinced that it was a trick full of treachery and refused to come out.
- So Kildare grabbed his spear, chopped a hole in the door, thrust his hand through the hole and cried, "Truce."
- Ormand could have easily cut off his hand – feud continued
- Instead, Ormand opened the door, took the extended hand – The feud was over!

33 **Door of Reconciliation**

- That door is still on display at St. Patrick's and is called the Door of Reconciliation:

34 **The True Door of Reconciliation – Jesus Christ**

- John 10:9: *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.*
- Colossians 1:21-22: *And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight."*

35 **WHO NEEDS RECONCILIATION?**

- Romans 3:23 – "All have sinned."
- Romans 5:12 – "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death spread to all men, because all sinned."