

**God effects the restoration of all things in a new creation by reconciling to Himself the elect from every nation through the double imputation of our sins to Christ and of Christ's righteousness to us.**

**1) God accomplishes cosmic restoration through the reconciliation of rebels from every nation (5:17-20).**

- a) v. 17—"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ—new creation!"—the promised new creation "in Christ" (1 Cor. 15:23; 2 Cor. 5:14-15); "new creation" and "old things/new things" echoes Isaiah 43:18-19; 65:17; 66:22 (cf. Rev. 21:1, 5); Individual salvation is connected to cosmic restoration.
- b) v. 18a—"All things are from God"—restoration of the cosmos, "all things" emphasizing Divine monergism—that is, that God alone performs the work of regeneration (cf. Rom. 8:21; Eph. 1:10; Col. 1:20).
- c) v. 18b—"Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself"—the reconciliation of rebels to God is directly related to cosmic restoration.
  - i) Man created as vice-regent of cosmos under God—Peace between God and man; Peace in the cosmos
  - ii) Man rebelled against God's supreme regency—War between God and man; Conflict in the cosmos
  - iii) God, in and through Christ, restores peace with rebels from all nations—Peace between God and some men; War between God and some men; Eager expectation of peace in the cosmos
    - (1) v. 19a—"Reconciling the world to Himself"—international scope—"the world"; particularity—"in Christ"
    - (2) v. 19b—"Not counting their trespasses against them"—Peace is achieved by the removal of the offense against God.

**2) God accomplishes the reconciliation of rebels through the substitutionary death of Christ for sin (5:21a).**

- a) "The one who knew no sin"—Christ had no sin of His own for which to pay.
- b) "For us"—"in our place"
- c) "He made sin"—Christ took the guilt of our sin upon Himself (cf. Gal. 3:13).
  - i) Penal Substitution/Vicarious Death—He stood in the place of particular sinners
  - ii) Objective Payment—Actual Satisfaction of God's Demands—He paid the full debt of those particular sinners
  - iii) Effectual Operation—Accomplishing Actual Reconciliation—God no longer counts the trespasses of those particular sinners

**3) God accomplishes the reconciliation of rebels through the gift of righteousness in Christ (5:21b).**

- a) "We might be made the righteousness of God"—All of God's righteous requirements are met for us. Now we have the status of righteous subjects and vice-regents.
- b) "In Him"—Christ is all our righteousness.

**4) Application: "Be reconciled to God" (5:20).**

- a) Reconciliation is accomplished by God in Christ objectively and applied by the Spirit in effectual calling (Irresistible Grace).
- b) Reconciliation is subjectively experienced upon reception of God's grace
- c) Even faith is a gift that was purchased by the work of Christ (Eph. 2:8; Phil. 1:29).
- d) Reconciliation with God means a blessed relationship of peace with God.
  - i) Assurance of the love of God
  - ii) Life well-ordered under the authority of God
  - iii) The restoration of all things which began with Christ continues in His Church(2 Cor. 5:14-15).

**Doxology:** "To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."—Revelation 1:5b-6