

090422P

INTRODUCTION

1. 2C5 v14ff - gospel & life-changing effects.
2. *Reconciliation* - v18-19. What God has done for us & yet does for others *thru Christ*. Prospect of what God will yet do for others thru us - v18-19.
3. As God's revelation consists of acts & words; we fulfill our stewardship w/ acts & words. V18 *ministry*. V19 *message*.

**1st: God's Commitment to Us:** *He has committed to us*

1. vocab of entrustment; stewardship => appointment. Jn 15:16; 1T 1:12
2. Know who we serve - A27:23; A20:24. Vocab of *IInd* c.
  - i. Cf. early 80s, that Bob Dylan bec/ Xn: "You Gotta Serve Somebody".
  - ii. *serve* = vocab of *IInd*c: *worship & serve* Creator or creature [R1:25]. We all work for smone, smthg.
  - iii. 2C5:19 concerns an assigned task - a job to do; function to fulfill.
3. *He* - GOD [let that sink in - look at J as He hands you assignment].
4. *Us* - seen before: Apostles - Pstrs - Ch - all who have exp'd reconcil; who are new creations, who no longer recognize ppl kata flesh, kata this age - who are regen'd, believers, justif'd, worshipers - servants of KgJ. 1C4:1-2
5. ANM wld emph: you are X's freeman; you serve X - know who you are as Pstr Coming to terms w/ stewardship of WofG is lifelong, serious, weighty. I'm not an apostle, & you're not pstrs, but we are all given & have been entrusted w/ ministry & word of reconcil - entrusted by GOD w/ message for sinners/world!

**2nd: Our Communication for God:** *the word of reconcil*

1. E 2 definite articles in Grk: "*the word of the reconcil*" - logoj; message, news, announcement, verbal communication w/ specific terms, words, vocab.
  - i. 2T1:13-14 E bib'al *standard* [outline, structure] w/ *sound* [healthy, alive & well => *WofG is living & active* - Heb 4:12] words [Bible vocab]. *Guard* [protect, sustain - don't allow infection, displacement, distortion: fend off attacks] - *treasure* - sell all, buy field, dig, find it, value it, sell it not - it is more precious than our life lived in this age: it is entrusted to *new creation*!
2. "The message of THE reconcil" - *namely*: 2C5:19. A13:26 *the word of this salvation*; 1C1:18 *the word of the cross*; Phil 2:16 *the word of life*.

**Applic #1: We Have Been Given This Specific Task**

1. I say "we" - but "we" is only as good as each of us ind'ly; only as each says "I have been given this task" - not him, not them: me. I have been given this task

2. I'm a preacher; accepting the stewardship of WofG in view of eternity, is more than I can convey from a spectrum of angles: most wonderful & terrifying. But I am not the only one in this room who is given this assignment: We - you.
3. Ch is responsible for gospel: not St, school system. Pillar & ground of T. If Ch not praying, proclaiming, practicing gospel T ) bec/s saltless salt: useless in a world of moral decay & demonic lies. Do all for sake of elect [2T 2:10]
4. Pt 2: "Our Communication for G" We speak to men, for G. 2T4:1-2a I often think of J present ) embrace whoever else is present. Speak *for G* - to kids; friends, work-mates, neighbors - give message to men - for X, in His presence.

**Applic #2: Our Task is a Service of Love for Christ**

1. 1C5:15 we face discomfort, fears, apprehensions - but *the love of X controls us*
2. When given providential opportunity to speak message of reconcil, too often 1st thg we think of is SELF. No: love X, love T, love neighbor - not self.

**Applic #3: We Must Communicate The Message of The Reconciliation**

1. When: when was the last time you explained gospel to someone else?
2. What: I recall plane - 2hrs talk as "Xn" - mentioned res & wmn acKn's *that* wld change everythg - we had been taking "Xn" but I not speak gospel of res'd J!!
3. Do the ppl in your life know content of 2C5:19? Has G placed another Xn in their life to tell them - or has He placed you in their life?
4. If you leave not thinking "It is MY responsibility to tell ppl in my life the news of G's reconciling gospel" - then I have failed in what I've tried to say. So I ask HS to press these words into each of our hearts: 2C5:18-19.