

08-04-13

Title: Reconciliation

Still thinking about – He is the head

What does this mean, specifically, practically...?

What is involved?

Am I living that way?

Are we living that way?

How does the church do this?

How do we do this?

How do I live that way?

Colossians 1:18

Why should Jesus have 1st place in everything?...

Colossians 1:19

Fully God

Jesus should have 1st place b/c He is God – that is God's place

Jesus is fully God

Not partially

Not 50% human, 50% God

100% human and 100% God

Since Jesus is the image of God, and all the fullness dwells in Him

The Colossians will not find fullness in anything but Him

We cannot find fullness anywhere but in Jesus, the Messiah

Salvation is found in no-one else – there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved

Angels do not help us with salvation, our works, our parents, our friends...

No one, but Christ

Reconciliation

Colossians 1:20

The reason, the purpose Jesus was fully God...

Reconciliation

Reconciling us to Himself

His full deity makes our redemption possible

Corrie ten Boom and her family secretly housed Jews in their home during WWII. Their "illegal" activity was discovered, and Corrie and her sister Betsie were sent to the German death camp Ravensbruck. There Corrie would watch many, including her sister, die.

After the war she returned to Germany to declare the grace of Christ: "When we confess our sins," she said, "God casts them into the deepest ocean, gone forever. And even though she couldn't find a Scripture for it, she said, I believe God then places a sign out there that says, 'NO FISHING ALLOWED.'

The solemn faces stared back at her, not quite daring to believe. And that's when she saw him, working his way forward against the others. One moment she saw the overcoat and the brown hat; the next, a blue uniform and a cap with skull and crossbones. It came back with a rush--the huge room with its harsh overhead lights, the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the center of the floor; the shame of walking naked past this man. She could see her sister's frail form ahead of her, ribs sharp beneath the parchment skin. That place was Ravensbruck, and the man who was making his way forward had been a guard--one of the most cruel guards.

Now he was in front of her, hand thrust out: "A fine message, Fräulein! How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!" And she, who had spoken so glibly of forgiveness, fumbled in her pocketbook rather than take that hand. He would not remember her, of course--how could he remember one prisoner among those thousands of women? But she remembered him. She was face-to-face with one of her captors and her blood seemed to freeze.

"You mentioned Ravensbruck in your talk," he was saying. "I was a guard there." "But since that time," he went on, "I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel

things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fräulein,"--again the hand came out--"will you forgive me?"

And she stood there--she whose sins had again and again to be forgiven--and could not forgive. Betsie had died in that place. Could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking? It could have been many seconds that he stood there--hand held out--but to her it seemed hours as she wrestled with the most difficult thing she had ever had to do.

For she had to do it--she knew that. Still she stood there with the coldness clutching her heart.

"Jesus, help me!" she prayed silently. "She could lift her hand. She could do that much. God would have to supply the feeling." And so woodenly, mechanically, she thrust out her hand.

"I forgive you, brother!" she cried. "With all my heart!" For a long moment they grasped each other's hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. She had never known God's love so intensely, as she did then.

Reconciliation, forgiveness is a most amazing thing
Especially when it is not deserved
We, you and I, are the most undeserving
Yet God offers it to us
To mend the relationship we damaged

Similar passage...

Ephesians 2:13-14, 16

Reconciliation has roots in Greek politics
Paul changes and transforms the idea
Instead of the guilty party starting the process
The emphasis is on God who is the offended party
God takes the initiative while we're still sinners
The offended seeks the offender

Katallasso – Gk word for to reconcile

Means – to change, or exchange

In NT, refers to change in relationship

People going from being at enmity w/ each other

To being at peace w/ each other – reconciled

A right relationship between God and man

We used to be His enemies, now...

The word used here has this as the root

Adds – *apo* at the beginning

This compound word means

Thoroughly, completely, totally reconciled

The relationship has been totally and completely changed

Full, total and complete reconciliation with God through Jesus the Messiah is now possible

We sing about it at Christmas – should all year – *God and sinners reconciled!!!*

Jesus is enough, He is all that is needed

Don't need anything else – nothing else works...

Jesus' death accomplishes this reconciliation

He doesn't talk about our actions to fix the problem

Only God can do that – there is nothing we can do

Through Jesus' death...

It took Jesus' death was necessary to overcome our alienation from God

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

- *...reconcile all things to Himself*

This is God's plan for the world

To reconcile all things to Himself through Jesus, Messiah

With the fall – God's good creation was marred

The harmony between God and His creation was changed

The perfect harmony between creatures was destroyed

Creation was subjected to futility

Creation groans and suffers pains of childbirth

Romans 8:21

...the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

God and creation will be reconciled

The curse of Genesis 3 will be removed

Everything will be made new

- *...having made peace through the blood of His cross*

Reconciliation is made possible through the cross

Through His shed bled on the cross

Through Jesus death on the cross

Jesus' death makes peace with God

By the cross, through the cross

By His blood, through His blood

By His death, through His death...

A new relationship between God and humans is possible

It overcomes the problem created by sin

It restores what had been broken

The means by which God will make peace is established

Through the cross, through Jesus blood, through His death

His blood made atonement – OT sacrificial system

The OT sacrificial system, sacrifice after sacrifice

Blood, blood and more blood

Leslie's sister and her husband both work at meat packing plant in Dodge City, KS

One time visiting them got to tour the plant

Her other sister doesn't eat meat anymore ☺

I was most intrigued – amazing process

Watched as they let the blood out of the cow

Couldn't believe how much there was

Cows, lambs, goats all sacrificed in OT

Thousands upon thousands

All a picture of Jesus shedding His blood for us

Dying in our place, paying the penalty that we deserved - death

Jesus was not a helpless victim

He willingly offered Himself as the sacrifice for us

It is by Jesus' death that we are reconciled

Jesus' blood is applied to our lives in a symbolic sense

When we trust Him as our Savior

It is His death in our place

It is not the bleeding that is important, it is the death that is symbolized in the blood

Alienated

Colossians 1:21-22a

God's plan was to reconcile

And this is who His plan was to reconcile

Those who were alienated

Those who were hostile in mind

Those who were engaged in evil deeds

Alienated – estranged, cut off, separated

Before reconciliation we are estranged from God

We are cut off and separated from Him

B/c of sin we are detached from God

W/o God's reconciliation we are all separated from God

Reconciliation is only possible through Jesus

- *...hostile in mind*

Hostile can also be translated hateful

We're not only alienated, we are hateful

People generally hate God, His holy standards and commands

Because of our evil deeds

Unbelievers love the darkness rather than the light

Our problem is not ignorance – we willfully love sin

Romans 1:21-24

We are without excuse – God is evident all around us

God's just wrath against sin must be appeased...

He is not the harmless, tolerant grandpa many imagine Him to be today

John 3:36

36 "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Ephesians 5:6

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

We can't be reconciled to God unless His wrath is appeased

That can only happen by Jesus' blood

B/c of God's holiness, His total, absolute perfection

We fully deserve His wrath

1 Thessalonians 1:10

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Romans 5:6-11

- *...all things to Himself*

This is available to the world

Applicable in individual lives

God deals with the individual

Through repentance and trust in Jesus alone

Holy and blameless

Colossians 1:22b

God reconciles us to Himself so that we would be holy and pure

Jude 24

24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

For us sinners to stand in God's presence

This must take place – we must be holy and blameless

Holy – separated from sin and set apart to God

Deals w/ our relationship to God

Since we are united w/ Christ

We are seen as holy

Blameless – w/o blemish – sacrificial animals could have no defect

Jesus was the spotless/blameless Lamb of God

Through repentance and trust we are reconciled

Therefore we are blameless
Beyond reproach – goes beyond blameless
Not only w/o blemish
No charge can be brought against us
B/c of our reconciliation w/ Christ
The enemy cannot make any charges stick

Through Jesus blood, His death
We stand holy, blameless and beyond reproach before God
Clothed in Jesus' righteousness – not our own

Growing spiritually involves becoming in practice what we are in reality before God

Colossians 3:10

...and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

Steadfast

Colossians 1:23

John 8:31

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

Colossians 1:11

Firmly established, steadfast, not moved from the hope of the gospel, continuing in His word, attaining steadfastness

Continuing on should be evident in a believer's life

Doesn't mean no doubts, fears do come

Looking back over our lives – continuing on

Remaining steadfast

Firmly established

Conclusion:

Have you been reconciled to God?

Have you repented and trusted Jesus as Savior?

He is the only One who can pay the penalty
Think, remember, what it means to be reconciled?
We were once alienated from God...
Now He has declared us holy and blameless
Are you seeking Him fully?
Are you seeking Him with all your heart?

Are you living in this reconciliation every day?
Remembering what He has done for you?
You have a relationship with God...
Are you living in the light of that truth?
Regardless of the trials you face
Hold on to this, cling to this...

Benediction:

2 Corinthians 5:20

20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Sermon outline

08-04-13

Colossians 1:19-23

F_____ God

R_____

A_____

Holy and b_____

S_____