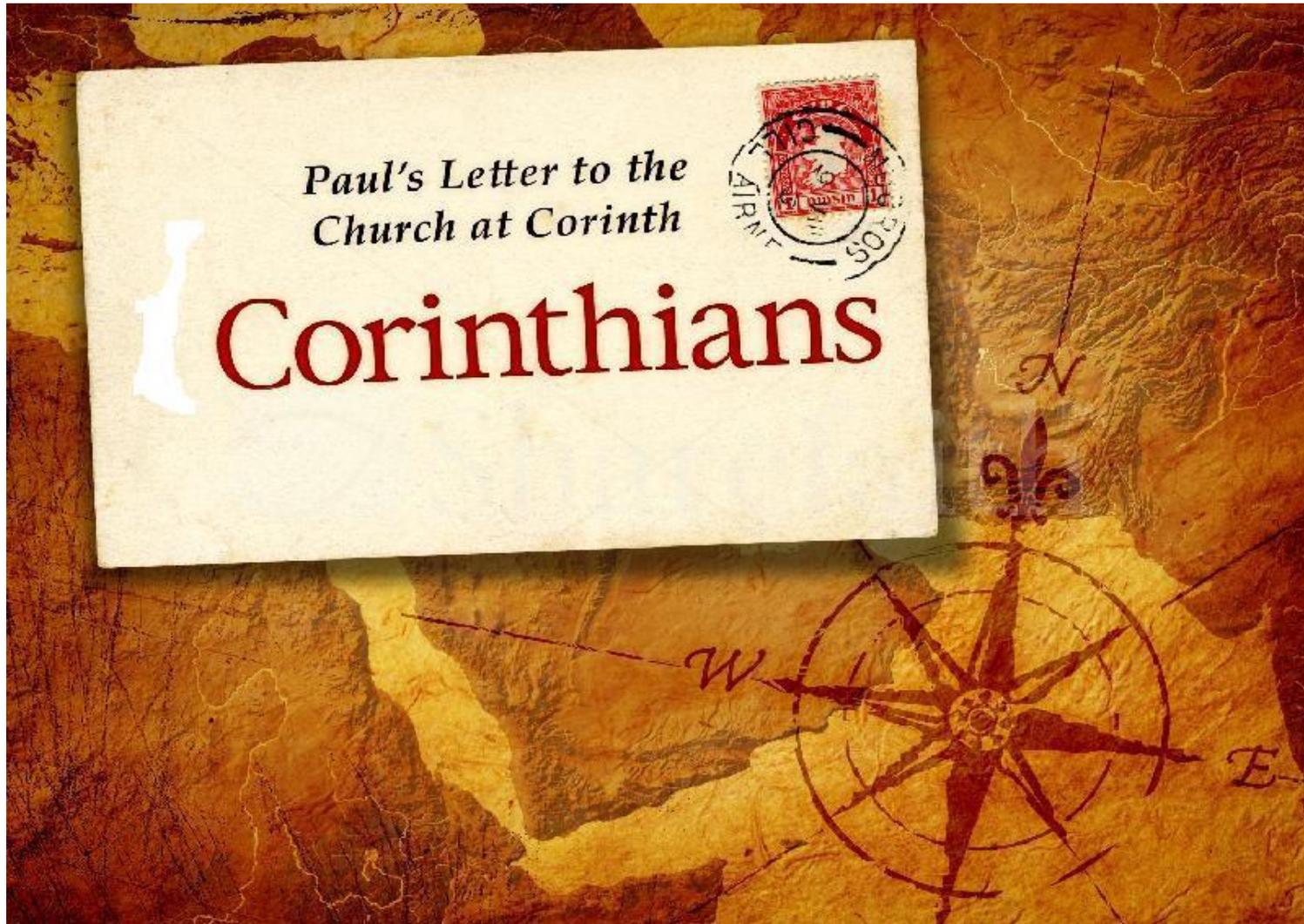


2 Cor. 5:20-21 Ambassadors for Christ and Righteousness





Outline Chp 5:1- 21

- 5:1-4 We Have a Building From God
- 5:5-9 The Spirit As a Pledge and Our Ambition
- 5:10 The Judgment Seat (*Bema*) of Christ
- 5:11-15 The Love of Christ Motivates Us
- 5:16-17 A New Creation
- 5:18-19 The Message of Reconciliation
- 5:20-21 Ambassadors for Christ & Righteousness

What does Reconcile mean in the Bible?

Reconcile:

to restore to friendship or harmony – typically each party will give a little to reach harmony (dictionary def.)

Bible usage:*

- Reconciliation means that someone or something is thoroughly changed and adjusted to something which is a standard [God].
- Since the position of the world before God is completely changed through the death of Christ, God's own attitude toward man can no longer be the same.
- He [God] is prepared to deal with souls now in the light of what Christ has accomplished.

* Chafer

God's Reconciliation Work (verse 18)

God is the Author of Reconciliation

1st - Having Reconciled **us**
to Himself through Christ

Through the death of His
Son

Having made peace
through the blood of His
cross

2nd – Having Given to **us** the Ministry
of Reconciliation

Rom 5:10a For if while
we were enemies **we**
were reconciled to God
through the death of His
Son

Rom 5:10b
much rather,
having been
reconciled, **we**
shall be saved
in [the power
of] His life.

God's Reconciliation Work (verse 19)

God was in Christ (doing the following)

3rd – Reconciling the **World** to Himself (present tense)

World: The ones whom God loved & for whom Christ died

4th – not Reckoning to **Unbelievers** their Trespasses (present tense)

not putting to their account but to Christ's account is the idea!

5th – Having put in **us** the Message of Reconciliation

- and lodged in **us** the story of the reconciliation Wuest₅

Today's Verses



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.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

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.

therefore – since we have the “message of reconciliation”

we are ambassadors – one who represents his sovereign
present tense – continuous action

- Doing the work of an ambassador moment by moment
- Christ is not now here so we are His representative*
- Eph 6:20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it [the gospel] I may speak boldly,

for [*huper*] **Christ**

huper – “on behalf of” and “in place of” – **twofold meaning**

- Paul will use this preposition of substitution three times in verses 20 and 21.

* Merryman

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.

more on being ambassadors for Christ:

- Therefore, on behalf of Christ and in His place we are acting as ambassadors. Wuest
- This makes **us** God's ambassadors, one of the most exalted titles the Christian can claim. Constable
- Christ represents **us** [believers] to God the Father.*
- We [believers] then represent Christ to the world.*
- When Christ's ambassador entreats, it is equivalent to the voice of God entreating through him. Constable

* Merryman

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.

as though (or as if)

[the] God – God the Father

were making an appeal - *parakaleō* - to call upon someone to do something, to exhort, present participle

- 2 Cor 6:1b we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain

through [*dia*] us

dia – by means of

- We are the instrument through which God makes His appeal to mankind.

Merryman

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.

more on through us

Ambassadors authoritatively announce messages for others and request, not demand, acceptance. Constable

we beg you on behalf of Christ,

we beg you - *deomai* - to beseech, pray, request, ask

Gal 4:12a I beg of you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are.

on behalf of [*huper*] Christ

huper – “on behalf of” and “in place of” – 2nd time

I beg of you, please, through us as His intermediate agents.

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.

[you, unbeliever] **be reconciled to God**

be reconciled – aorist, imperative, passive

be reconciled at once to God

Wuest

What does this mean?

- Paul is not telling the Corinthians to be reconciled; they already are.
- We as believers represent God and the Lord Jesus in reconciliation - so this message is to them (unbelievers).
- Reconciliation is provided to all unbelievers, but all must accept this reconciliation.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The one not knowing sin He made sin on behalf of us,

Interlinear

knowing - *ginōskō* - to be taking in knowledge, to come to know, - aorist, participle

- He who did not know sin in an experiential way. Wuest
- Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.
- 1 Pet 2:22 [Christ] Who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth.
- 1 John 3:5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The one not knowing sin – cont.

- Christ had no interaction with sin since He was not tempted by sin!
- James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.
- Heb 7:26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens.
- Therefore Christ is fully God and fully man without a sin nature.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The one not knowing sin He made sin on behalf of us.

He – God the Father

made - *poieō* - to make a product, has in view the end of the work (display of end results) - past point fact

- amazingly the product of what God made is Christ *to be sin*

Merryman (edited)

sin – *harmartia* – to miss the mark of God’s righteousness

- No definite article – speaks of the character of a thing.
- Christ was made the thing sin itself.
- Only the Father could do this to the Son.
- So complete was the identification of the sinless Christ with the sin of the sinner, that Paul could say profoundly, “God made him . . . to be sin for us.”

Constable

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

What does this mean - He made sin on behalf of us. - 3rd

- We cannot understand what it was for Him to be made sin. Coates
- There is no sentence more profound in the whole of Scripture. Constable

What we do know!

- 1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross
- Rom 8:3b God having sent His Son in likeness of flesh of sin, and concerning sin, condemned sin in the sinful nature. Wuest
- On behalf of us and instead of us, [He] was made sin. Wuest (edited)

21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

so that - with a purpose that

we – the believer

might become – *ginomai* – coming into a new state of being, a state that never existed before
past point fact

the righteousness of God in Him

- Rom 3:22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe
- 1 Cor 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.

21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

the righteousness of God in Him – cont.

Paul has chosen this exceptional wording "made sin for us" in order to emphasize the 'sweet exchange' whereby sinners are given a righteous status before God through the righteous one who absorbed their sin (and its judgment) in himself.

Constable

- The riches of God's grace are many times expressed with the "in Him" or "in Christ" expression:
- Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world
- Col 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete
- Eph 1:3b who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

Final Thoughts *



- He [Christ] has wrought for them a complete reconciliation.
- Their position before God is vitally changed by being those for whom Christ died.
- God is satisfied with that which Christ has wrought, as a solution of the problem of sin and its required judgments.
- Whether the sinner will believe and receive this provision to the point of being himself suited with what satisfies God is quite another question.
- To the end that the unsaved may believe, the reconciling message is committed to ambassadors who are appointed to go forth beseeching the unsaved to be reconciled to God. * Chafer

All men have been reconciled by Christ's death on the cross, but ...



We beg you
in Christ's
stead,
be reconciled
at once to God.

For all have
sinned and
fall short of
the glory
of God.

For God so loved
the world, that He gave
His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes
in Him shall not perish,
but have eternal life.

1. Christ died for our sins
(on behalf of our sins)
2. Christ was buried -
you only bury a dead man.
3. Christ was raised –
God raised Him up again,
--- since it was impossible
for Him to be held in its power.

And after he brought
them out he said, "Sirs,
what must I do to be
saved?" They said,
"Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved,
you and your household."