

**Be Reconciled to God**

- **Ro 3:10-18** As it is written: "**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"; **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."

How would you describe the gospel...good news, salvation, all true and correct but what is the core of the Gospel, the center of the message of the Kingdom that John the Baptist proclaimed as well as the proclamation of Jesus during His early ministry. The gospel could be summed up in one term the doctrine of Reconciliation. To be reconciled, to be made one, to be brought back together. To whom? To God! Through Jesus Christ. We tend to know that, but do we understand the mechanics of this grace that has been extended to us.

**Reconciliation**, (Wikipedia) in Christian theology, is an element of salvation that refers to the results of atonement. Reconciliation is the end of the estrangement, caused by original sin, between God and humanity... Evangelical theologian Philip Ryken describes reconciliation in this way; "It is part of the message of Salvation that brings us back together with God. ... God is the author, Christ is the agent and we are the ambassadors of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5)." Although it's only used five times in the Pauline epistles (Romans 5:10-11, 11:15, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, Ephesians 2:14-17 and Colossians 1:19-22) it is an essential term, describing the "substance" of the gospel and salvation. Ralph Martin writing in the Dictionary of Paul and his Letters, suggests reconciliation is at the center of Pauline theology.

- **Ge 3:21** ¶ Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.
- **Heb 9:22** And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.
- **Le 17:11** 'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'
- Abrahamic Covenant
- Mosaic Covenant
- The Law
- The sacrificial system.
- The Tabernacle/Temple
- Jesus' birth, life death resurrection
- **1Co 15:1-5** ¶ Moreover, brethren, **I declare to you the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2 by which also you are saved**, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you--unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, **4** and that **He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures**, **5** and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

**2Co 5:17-21** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **18** 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**. **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.

### Reconcile all things to Himself

**Col 1:9-23** ¶ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 ¶ giving thanks to the Father **who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.** 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have **redemption through His blood**, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to **reconcile** all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross.** 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

### The reconciliation of Jew and Gentile

**Eph 2:11-22** ¶ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** 14 ¶ For He Himself is our peace, **who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, (reconciliation)** 15 having **abolished in His flesh the enmity**, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself **one new man from the two**, thus making peace, 16 and that He might **reconcile** them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 For **through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.** 19 Now, therefore, **you are no longer strangers** and foreigners, **but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God**, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being joined together, **grows into a holy temple in the Lord**, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

### Reconciliation to each other

**Mt 5:24** "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be **reconciled** to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

**Ac 7:26** "And the next day he appeared to two of them as they were fighting, and tried to **reconcile** them, saying, 'Men, you are brethren; why do you wrong one another?'