

Date: 11.10.2020

Time: 11am

Preacher: Gavino Fioretti

Psalm (read): Psalm 65

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:20

Outline: Ambassadors of Jesus

Introduction

Ambassadors of Jesus are sent by God

Ambassadors of Jesus are sent as instruments

Ambassadors of Jesus preach God's message

Ambassadors of Jesus are involved in God's pleading

Ambassadors of Jesus

• **Introduction**

The passage reveals the gospel of Jesus: 2 Corinthians 5 is a good passage to preach to all as it presents the gospel of Christ – it is vital to believers and especially to unbelievers. The gospel is to be at peace with God, to be reconciled to Him. We need to understand and believe in the gospel of Jesus.

The passage reveals the authority of Jesus: Paul describes self as an ambassador. An ambassador was a royal messenger, sent by a king or one in authority, with no authority in and of themselves; the authority belonged to the one who sent them.

The passage reveals the command of Jesus: Believing in Jesus is a command – something that you have to do; you have to be reconciled to God. Failing to do this means a lost eternity in Hell.

The passage reveals the kingdom of Jesus: Jesus has a kingdom. He is Lord. This King sent His ambassadors to warn the enemies and to offer them peace. The ambassadors are saying “Be at peace with Him. He's willing to share the riches of His kingdom with you. Don't resist Him.” If you're not in His family, or a friend of Jesus, God is speaking to you and inviting you to be reconciled to Him.

1) Ambassadors of Jesus are sent by God

They're reconciled to God: Ambassadors are already being reconciled to God (vs 18). What makes us ambassadors of Jesus is that we've experienced that reconciliation; Jesus has reconciled us to God. Having experienced the grace and salvation of God, we're sent to tell others about this glorious salvation.

They're called by God: We're called to tell others about salvation. Ambassadors have tasted and seen that God is good and so go out into the world to share that grace with others.

They're entrusted with a message by God: Jesus is entrusting His messengers with the message of reconciliation. He could have entrusted angels, or shared the message of reconciliation entirely Himself, but He's entrusted this message to His ambassadors. This is a message of reconciliation. It's all about the grace of God in Jesus. He wants us to tell others to be reconciled with God, to be at peace with Him.

2) Ambassadors of Jesus are sent as instruments

The message is Christ's: The message is not that of the ambassador, but of the One who sent them. What is preached is from God. It's God who is pleading and appealing through His people. We're the instruments that God has chosen to reach out to His enemies.

Imploring on behalf of Christ: What is being said is what the King wants. The problem is that for many is that all they see is the preacher or the church and not the One who has sent the preacher. Behind the gospel preacher is King Jesus. The minister is the instrument in Christ's hand, equipped and called by God to appeal to people on God's behalf. Unbelief is so terrible in its consequences as it's not resisting the preacher or the church, it's resisting God's will and salvation.

3) Ambassadors of Jesus preach God's message

God's gift: The grace of God is seen in this whole chapter – the transformation God brings in the life of His people is seen. We've experienced the love of Christ. The hope that we have, the salvation we have, the new life we live is from God. It's all of God; it's His work. The forgiveness of sins that we enjoy is from God.

God's work: What are God's ambassadors called to preach? God's doing and God's will must be preached. All that God has done for sinners. The ambassador is called to proclaim all the wonders of God. God is a saving God, who has done all that's required for our salvation. We can make it about rules rather than about what God has done for sinners. There is room for the law, but we're not to neglect the gospel, what God has done for sinners.

God's will: Ambassadors of Jesus have to preach His will. God's will is for people to be reconciled to Him. He wants you to be saved and calls you to be reconciled to Him. He's willing to be at peace with you. You need to be willing to be at peace with God. He is reconciled in Christ – He wants us to be reconciled to Him and to be at peace with Him, to be on His side, to be in His family.

Jesus' ambassadors tell what God has done for them and what He now commands or expects; to be reconciled to Him. You've to accept the terms and conditions of the covenant. He's your God, salvation and hope.

4) Ambassadors of Jesus are involved in God's pleading

A plea from the trinity: This great God and King who will have victory implores you through His servants to be reconciled to Him. The whole trinity are involved in this. Their desire, request, petition is for you to be reconciled to God. The trinity tells you through servants of God to be reconciled to God.

A passionate plea: God's making His appeal – not shouting at you or rebuking the way we deserve, but God is making His appeal. Christ is imploring you to be saved. He could burn this world to the ground in a second and send us all to Hell, but He doesn't. Don't you see or feel the love of God for sinners? He doesn't need us. We provoke Him. He does good to us and we respond with sin, evil and rebellion. He responds by making His appeal and imploring us.

A plea to you today: Through this sermon, God is beseeching you to think about your soul, to think about eternity and to think about Heaven and Hell. Don't just think about it, but do something about it. Receive His forgiveness, grace and love. Receive Christ. This pleading reminds us that God is sincere in the gospel. He wants sinners to be saved. He desires for us to have eternal life. In Ezekiel, He says, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked." He desires for people to accept Him as Lord and Saviour. It's your decision if you find yourself in a lost eternity. If you find yourself in Heaven, it's God's grace.

He wants us to receive and to enjoy the salvation He offers. He wants you to be reconciled to Him. What will you do?