

**Date:** 18.10.2020

**Time:** 6pm

**Preacher:** Gavino Fioretti

**Psalm:** Psalm 130 (Scottish Psalter)

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 5

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 5:21

**Outline: Reconciled with God**

Introduction

God's will

God's work

God's Son

God's gospel

## **Reconciled with God**

### • **Introduction**

There is a fundamental difference between the Christianity of the Bible and other religions. In other religions, man does good works to reconcile God to Himself. In biblical Christianity, it's a huge difference – it's God who reconciles Himself to the world – we don't do this work of reconciliation. In the Bible, we do nothing; we cannot please God or be reconciled to Him. There's not goodness in us to reconcile us to God – all that we do would make things worse as all that's done in the flesh is at war with God. God had to reconcile Himself to us. This reconciliation is from God. We have a mighty reminder that every aspect and detail of our salvation is the doing of God and based on His gracious dealings with His people. Knowing our weakness, He took the whole burden of our salvation and did this for us.

How can the holy God be reconciled to Hell-deserving sinners?

### **1) God's will**

It's God's will for us to be reconciled to Him. That is how it's possible.

**He sends his messengers:** He sends His ambassadors, with the appeal that we be reconciled to Him. That is what He wants; that we be reconciled to Him. Ambassadors share not what is their will, but the One who sent them. God's message is that God has reconciled the world to Himself. It's His will, not ours, that man be reconciled to Him. When left to our own minds, we resist God. But it's His will that we be reconciled.

**He pleads:** God is appealing. We see what God is commanding and what He desires. When God makes an appeal, it shows the will of God. We are reconciled to God because it pleased Him to be reconciled to us and we with Him. We can share the gospel with boldness and proclaim the gospel with reassurance. The One who sent us really desires for sinners to be reconciled to Himself. God presents the gospel out of His heart. The message of reconciliation is a revelation of God's pleasure and passion.

### **2) God's work**

God does what is necessary for us to be reconciled to Him.

**He makes Jesus to be sin:** Sin is the barrier, the gulf, that divides the Creator from the created. God had to bridge that barrier and finds that solution in Christ. God made Jesus to be sin. It doesn't say in this passage that God made Jesus to be a sin offering. Jesus did not become a sinner, but was made sin – this means that our sins became His sins and God treated Him as if He was a sinner. If He had become a sinner, He

could not have saved us. God made Him to be sin and so God punished Him as if He was a sinner.

**He makes us to be justice:** He made us the righteousness of God – it doesn't say that He made us as righteous as God. It says He made us the righteousness of God. How does God see you? Not as righteous, but He sees His own righteousness in you because of Christ. When we examine ourselves, we see our own mess, but when God sees us, He sees the righteousness of God in us and that makes our salvation certain. We're justified and there's no more condemnation. God has made us the righteousness of God. That's why we're going to Heaven. Christ is the incarnation of the righteousness of God. God sees Christ the Son in His people – the One in whom He is well pleased. God the Father sees Christ in us and so He is pleased in us. When we see ourselves, we're not pleased, but when God sees us, He is pleased. We cannot lose our salvation; it's impossible. We are safe – be thankful to God for this. The righteousness of Christ is mine by faith. God's will is for us to be reconciled to Him. To accomplish this desire, God does the unthinkable and makes Jesus to be sin, punishing Him for all our sins. He takes the righteousness of His Son and clothes us with His righteousness. This is His work. It's not what you do that will save you. You're right with God because God has given you freely the righteousness of Jesus. That's the ground of our salvation.

### **3) God's Son**

Jesus is equal with God the Father, but there is also obedience from Christ to the will of the Father. Jesus is the means that the Father uses to satisfy His righteousness and love.

**Our sin:** God put our sins on Jesus. The sins of every believer in every time on this earth was put on Christ that He pay the consequences of these sins. Every vain and idle word, every unhelpful and wrong action and thought was put on Jesus.

**Our righteousness:** He's our righteousness. His righteousness is given to us so that we can become the righteousness of God.

**Our salvation:** For our sake, for our good, for our reconciliation and salvation, Jesus took our sin. Without Jesus, we cannot become the righteousness of God, we cannot be forgiven, we cannot be reconciled with God. Christ is necessary. There's no other name under Heaven by which we can be saved. Without Christ, there is no good news. The only way to be saved is Jesus. He is the only One who could carry our sin and grant us forgiveness. Do you have Christ? You might have biblical knowledge or a church or a knowledge of Jesus, but do you have Christ? We might have little faith, but if we have Jesus, we have the righteousness of God.

### **4) God's gospel**

**What God has done for us:** The gospel is the good news of what God has done and so we have to tell people what God has done. We tell people what God has done about your problem with sin.

**What God requires from us:** Our responsibility is to tell others what God has done for us. Tell them that you are at peace with God and He with you. There is hope in your heart because of what God has done for us. We can remember to tell people what God expects of them, but don't neglect to tell them what God has done for us. If God has reconciled the world to Himself, it's time for you to be reconciled to God. If God has removed the barriers and all that was in the way to allow sinners to be saved, God's command is to be reconciled to Him. He's done all that's needed. Turn to this gracious, reconciling God and ask Him for mercy. For people to come to Christ, they have to be told about Him. He is the One in whom there is reconciliation. He is the One who carries the sin of all who come to Him. Tell others about what He's done – don't forget this. Don't be so taken with morality and principles of the law that you forget the main thing – the grace of God in Jesus Christ. If you're a Christian today, go and tell others not what you feel, but what Christ has done for us and what He can do for them. We are reconciled to God because of Jesus and through Jesus. We grasp so little of what

this means, but we'll spend eternity grasping more of this. We'll spend every day grasping a little more of what God has done for us.