

THE MEANING OF EASTER

2 Cor 5.17-21

The whole of Scripture can be summed up in one word: JESUS. And Jesus can be described in one word: *reconciliation*

The Bible was written to show us who Jesus is, why He came, did for us. That's why it's all about reconciliation.

It is that wonderful vs 19:

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

We know the backstory of this:

God wanted a being like Himself that He could fellowship with. Someone who was creative, thinking, reasoning, love... So He created Adam and Eve, the pinnacle of His creation And we know the unfortunate result: blew the greatest deal in history

So God had to set about reconciling; bringing back humanity into fellowship with Himself

To reconcile means to settle the account, reunite, harmonize.

This reconciliation was done: -on the Cross of Calvary -by Jesus -through the power of Holy Spirit

The Gospel is the Good News. The Good News that God has restored the breach; opened the door.

The Gospel is God, in grace, restoring humanity back to himself by the blood of Jesus.

The Gospel is a reconciled relationship with the Creator! We have two things that every religion wants, every human desires... Reconciliation to a supreme Being Relationship with that Supreme Being.

That's the GOSPEL!

The gospel began in Jerusalem as a *relationship*; in Greece, it became an *idea*; in Rome, an *institution*; in the US, an *enterprise*.

Never forget what the Gospel is! A person (God) coming into harmony with a people. God reconciling me to Himself by His grace.

PROVIDER OF RECONCILIATION (GOD)

God, having predestined us to the adoption of sons according to the good pleasure of His will (Eph 1.5)

For it is GOD who is at work in y both to will & to do His good pleasure Php 2.13

Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creation (Jas 1.18)

In Luke 12, Jesus made an incredible statement:

Fear no little flock, for it is the *Father's good pleasure*...Amazing! Astounding!

And in Him is neither variableness nor shadow of turning; He is the same yesterday...His provision remains secure!

PERSON OF RECONCILIATION (knew no sin)

Never a germinal seed of evil thought.

Our Reconciler is:

PURE "Behold the lamb of God...."

POWERFUL "Voice from heaven, this is my beloved...listen to Him!"

OBEDIENT "I only do what the Father tells me to do."

Jesus maintained His pure innocence with the Father. He did everything with the same zeal: *enjoyable and difficult*.

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.' "

What a lesson for us! Not my will, but thine be done! That I might know Him, the power... and the fellowship sufferings...

THE PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION (became sin for us)

Does not mean he became a thief, liar, drug addict, for then He would no longer be the pure sacrifice

Our understanding comes from Isa 53.6: "The Lord laid upon him the iniquity..." LANDED upon...

All of God's wrath for all sin for all time had to be deposited somewhere.

If God poured out His wrath on the earth, the universe would have been burned to a cinder!

Jesus was the buffer, receptacle for that wrath. All of the wrath for every act of sin for every human for all time landed on Him.

The greatest agony of Jesus did not occur on Calvary, but probably in the Garden. What reconciliation! What a savior!

THE PEOPLE OF RECONCILIATION (become the righteousness...)

God imputed, assigned, attributed MY sin to Jesus...Then He (vs 19) deposited on me the WORD of reconciliation.

WRATH landed on Jesus, mercy & grace landed on me!

Delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification

Given to the enemy, now the enemy is under our feet

Jesus delivered Himself to Satan, now we are triumphant over...

He was openly betrayed, now we are securely vindicated

He was condemned in the flesh	I am now glorified in the Spirit
The wrath rested on Him	Now His joy fills my heart
He was debased	Now I'm exalted
He became poor,	Now through His poverty, I have become rich
He submitted Himself to bondage	Now I am free
He became the curse	Now I have sure Blessings
He suffered the curse of the Law	Now I thrive under His grace
He carried my sin	Now I display His glory
He destroyed the works of the devil	Now I share His victory

All this, so that we might become all that we ought to be...That's Easter!

Provider: God reconciling the world;
Person: Jesus the spotless lamb
Process: He took our sins away, having nailed them to the tree

AND NOW, we are People of reconciliation.

Let the whole world know!