



LIVING ON MISSION

GOING WITH THE GOSPEL

**“Ambassadors for Christ”
2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

Introduction

False Religion of our Day

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

- Moralistic - the central goal of life is to be a good person. Be nice, fair, hardworking, respectful.

Introduction

- Therapeutic - God exists primarily to make me feel better about myself. A divine therapist for when I'm in trouble.

- Deism - God is real but mostly distant. He doesn't make demands; He shows up when I need Him.

You do not need to be improved. You need to be reconciled.

¹⁶Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him in this way no longer.

¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.²⁰ So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Big Idea

Because Christ has reconciled us to God, we are now sent to beg others to be reconciled to Him.

I. A New Lens (v. 16)

Reconciliation changes how you see people.

We no longer view people according to the flesh

Every person you meet is an image-bearer of a holy God (Genesis 1:27)

II. A New Creation (v. 17)

If you are in Christ, you have...

- **A new heart - Ezekiel 36:26**
- **A new spirit - Ezekiel 36:27**
- **A new covenant - Jeremiah 31:31–33**
 - **A new birth - John 3:3**

II. A New Creation (v. 17)

- **A new name - Revelation 2:17**
- **A new family - Romans 8:15–17**
- **A new inheritance - 1 Peter 1:3–4**
- **A new future - Revelation 21:1–5**
- **A new citizenship - Philippians 3:20**

III. A New Ministry (vv. 18–20)

What does an ambassador actually do?

- 1. Ambassadors live there**
- 2. Ambassadors carry the message**
- 3. Ambassadors report back**
- 4. Ambassadors don't go rogue**

⁸but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to THE END OF THE EARTH.”

Acts 1:8

III. A New Ministry (vv. 18–20)

Principle to memorize:

The Holy Spirit moves to the people of God when the people of God move on purpose to people far from God.

When was the last time you begged someone to be reconciled to God? (v. 20)

IV. A New Message (v. 21)

The Great Exchange

- **Your sin → laid on Christ at the cross.**
- **His righteousness → credited to you.**

Conclusion

²⁴But I do not make my life of any account nor dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁶Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all. ²⁷For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

Acts 20:24, 26-27

Conclusion

"I am not interested in the amount of doctrine you know if it means you do nothing. If you just sit down with your great knowledge, you are unlike Paul. The real understanding of doctrine leads to a heart's longing and desire and prayer for the salvation of the lost."

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.