

2 Corinthians 6

4/29/2020

Wednesday Night

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

¹⁸ Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

6:1 And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—

² for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"—

³ giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited,

⁴ but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,

⁵ in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger,

⁶ in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

⁷ in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,

⁸ by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true;

⁹ as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death,

¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

Review:

1. Paul talked last time about the affect the love of God has on him when he realized how profound it was

a. It was so compelling that the world thought he had lost his mind

2 Corinthians 5:13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;

2. Grasping the death, burial, resurrection should bring a reckless abandonment of this life

2 Corinthians 5:15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT2) He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

a. But it doesn't always work that way but it should

i. "might no longer live for themselves"

1. Is in subjunctive mood

1. Maybe they will live for Him & maybe not!

V.18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

1. "Now all these things are from God"

a. None of the plan of salvation came from man

i. Salvation is all of God – He sought us out when we weren't looking for a Savior

ii. Really knowing God compels you to share the news w/ others

1. When preachers try to force others to share their faith it never is very successful

2. You can't guilt people into witnessing

3. People eagerly share Christ when they see the grandeur / greatness of what God has done

V.18 x Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,

V.19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

1. "that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them"
 - a. The emphasis in the verse is not on "God was in Christ"
 - i. The Emphasis on "God...reconciling the world to Himself"
 - b. Here it is! A plan for man's redemption that only God could plan
 - c. The cross is the most amazing thing in all the world
 - i. Only God could have envisioned seen a plan like this for the saving of man
 - ii. There isn't anything like Christianity
 - d. When you compare manmade religion w/ Christianity you see how foolish man's attempts of concocting a way to God are
 - i. There is nothing like Christianity!
 - ii. No religion in its entirety expresses what is in this 1 verse
 - e. There is a convergence at the cross that exist nowhere
 - i. This is why Paul is beside himself when he thinks about what God has done
 - ii. We see at the cross the convergence of:
 - 1.Evil of man,
 - 2.Judgment of man
 - 3.Awfulness of sin
 - 4.Judgment of sin
 - 5.Holiness of God
 - 6.Justice of God
 - 7.Love of God
 - 8.Forgiveness of sin
 - 9.Imputed righteousness
 - f. These entities converge at the cross standing independent of each other
 - g. Each entity is dwelt w/ accordingly
 - h. Dealing w/ one entity does not violate any another entity
 - 1.The evil of mankind revealed
 1. The way Christ was treated by the mob

Psalm 22:6 But I am a worm and not a man,
A reproach of men and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me sneer at me; They separate
with the lip, they wag the head, saying,

Psalm 22:12 Many bulls have surrounded me;
Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.

¹³ They open wide their mouth at me, As a
ravening and a roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, And all my bones
are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is
melted within me.

¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And
my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me
in the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded me; A band of
evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced
my hands and my feet.

¹⁷ I can count all my bones. They look, they
stare at me;

¹⁸ They divide my garments among them, And
for my clothing they cast lots.

2.The judgment of mankind

1. Man deserved the cross

2. Cursed is everyone who hand on a cross

Philippians 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking
the form of a bond-servant, and being made in
the likeness of men.

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He
humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the
point of death, even death on a cross.

3.The awfulness of sin

1. It isn't that man was just guilty of some sins (minor
indiscretions

2. It is the awfulness of sin that shows on the cross

3. It was our sins that put Christ on the cross

Isaiah 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves

esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

4.The judgment of sin

1. He became sin for us – sin was judged

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

5.The holiness of God

1. God could not look on sin

2. The Son became sin

Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

6.The justice of God

1. It is finished – God's justice was satisfied

John 19:30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

7.The love of God

1. The love of God compelled the cross

2. The cross demonstrates His love

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

8.Total forgiveness of sin

1. Christ procured our forgiveness

Colossians 2:13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your

flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,
¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

9. The righteousness of Christ imputed to man

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

b. This is why Paul while meditating on the cross said this

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

³⁴ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?

³⁵ Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

c. All of this is seen in the V.19-V21

V.19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

V.20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

V.21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

6:1 And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain—

1. "working together with Him"

a. God uses people today to minister to other people

- i. Angels never witness about the cross
 - ii. We are God's mouthpiece
2. "we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain"
- a. How can we receive God's grace in vain?
 - i. He isn't talking about someone rejecting Christ
 - ii. Written to believers
 - iii. In vain: #1. By choosing not to live for Him completely
 - 1. You don't share news that isn't important to you
 - iv. In vain: #2. By not living in fresh grace
 - 1. Yesterday's grace isn't good for today – moment by moment
- John 1:16** For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.

V.2 for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU." Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"—

- 1. "now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"
 - a. He is quoting out of **Isaiah 49**
 - i. He is using it differently than it was written
 - ii. He is saying, "Now is the time to share Christ"
 - iii. Today is all anyone has

V.3 giving no cause for offense in anything, so that the ministry will not be discredited,

You will have trials

V.4 but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses,

V.5 in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger,

Your response to those trials

V.6 in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love,

V.7 in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,

The paradox of the life of a believer

V.8 by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; regarded as deceivers and yet true;

V.9 as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death,

V.10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

We have a message the world needs to hear:

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,
²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"