

## RECONCILIATION

Salvation consists of man's reconciliation to God, and not God's reconciliation to man. Man must be changed and made right with God instead of God being changed and appeased of His righteous indignation toward man.

All religions cry out for the need of reconciliation with the gods. Sacrifices, self-abuses, pilgrimages, and worship proceeds from their belief that God is angry with them. The true picture of God's character has been erased from the human heart because of sin. The change which came into the heart of Adam caused him to think that God had also changed His heart toward man. But God never changes. Men judge God according to their own darkened heart where they know that their own wrath is appeased by torture of the one with whom they are angry. Because of this reasoning, some people believe that God has poured out His wrath on Jesus in order to be able to show us mercy. They believe that they can never escape the wrath of God toward their sin unless God poured out His wrath on someone else in their place. They look upon Christ as a protection against God's wrath. They read this false narrative into Scripture and hurt themselves by thinking less of God than He is.

The truth is that God's wrath can never be appeased. God does not change. God's heart did not change when Adam sinned. God's heart does not change toward us when we sin. It is not God's heart that needs to be changed. It is the human heart that needs to be changed. Reconciliation to God can only occur when the human heart is changed into a new creation. Jesus has the right and the power to change the human heart. Jesus died to condemn sin to extinction and take away the sin of the world. This first stage of taking away sin is through the spiritual new birth of repentant hearts. Glorification completes the process for individual believers in Christ.

The Bible teaches that there has occurred no change in God's heart toward man because of sin. It is not God who needs to be reconciled to man, but it is man who needs to be reconciled to God. Man needs to be cleansed from sin and restored to "glory", a right relation to God. We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Both sin and glory need to be remedied.

God's love never needed to be restored by any reconciliation, because His love was never lost. God loves because He is love, and He has remained "love" in spite of our sin. God's love never increases nor diminishes. God has not given us Christ to reinforce His love for us, but to lift us from sin and bring us to glory. Therefore, God did not pour His wrath upon Christ, and did not put our guilt upon Christ and punish Christ in our place. 2 Corinthians 5:19-21 Instead, Christ became the sin offering to condemn sin to extinction and take away the sin of the world. Romans 8:3

## RECONCILIATION PROCLAIMED AT THE CROSS

God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Christ, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the Cross. Colossians 1:20            God is in the process of reconciling all things to Himself.

At the Cross, Jesus disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:15            Satan's defeat is assured.

God was in Christ on the Cross, reconciling the world to Himself.    2 Corinthians 5:19a

God is reconciling the world to Himself, but we must be reconciled to God through our cooperation with the Spirit to let Him change us, making us into new creations. Salvation is being reconciled to God.

He personally carried the load of our sins in His own body when He died on the cross, so that we can be finished with sin and live a good life of righteousness from now on. 1 Peter 2:24

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in the flesh. Romans 8:3    Sin is condemned and sentenced to removal from all creation.

God made Christ who knew no sin to be the sin offering for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

Jesus said, "All power and authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Matthew 28:18

The Cross condemned sin to extinction, reconciled the world to God, made opportunities for individuals to receive release from sin's bondage, and disarmed all powers and authorities in heaven and earth. The Resurrection of Jesus gave Him all power and authority to judge and remove sin, make new creations of repentant sinners, and restore all things to right standing with God.

**Outline: RECONCILIATION**

**The Cross of Jesus: Justifies the change of all things to peace with God.**

**Condemned sin to extinction.**

**Satan is judged. His defeat is assured.**

**Opportunity to receive life in Christ is given.**

**The Resurrection of Jesus:**

**Proclaims His authority to judge and remove sin.**

**Justifies making new creations of repentant sinners.**

**Justifies restoring all things to right standing with God.**

**Sin is judged for removal.**

**Satan is judged for removal.**