

UNIVERSALISM AND NOT IMPUTING SINS

A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

“ 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.”

~ 2 Corinthians 5:19

1. Introduction

- a. We know the Bible says sin, judgment, wrath, and hell are real and populated.
- b. We know salvation is through faith, and that faith is necessary to be saved.
- c. We know the Bible says some are in eternal darkness, fire, for rejecting God.
- d. Universalism is not possible in light of what the Bible says to be true.
- e. 2 Cor 5:19 is a passage that ensnares grace believers into universalist tendencies
- f. Like Universalists they confuse the terms and timing of salvation.
 - i. Like the Calvinists, they believe if God died for them, they must be saved.
 - ii. Unlike the Calvinist, they believe Christ died for all.
- g. There is a difference between the provision and the possession.
- h. There is a difference between what was accomplished and how it is applied.

2. "reconciling the world unto himself"

- a. *"God was in Christ"* – When was this? This was Christ in the flesh, on the cross.
- b. Without Christ there was no hope, we were dead, sinners, enemies of God
- c. Christ provided reconciliation for the world before God: he provided the means
- d. In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins - Eph 1:7
- e. The body of his flesh through death provided reconciliation - Col 1:20-22

3. "not imputing their trespasses unto them"

- a. How could he do that, when we were all sinners? A: love/grace - Rom 5:6,5:8,5:10
- b. Not imputing trespasses, which we deserved, he died for us – 1 Tim 2:6
- c. When he died he took away the enmity and made peace – Eph 2:13-17, Rom 5:13
- d. John recognized the love of God for Israel – 1 John 4:10, 2:2, 1:9; Heb 10:16-18
- e. Not all are forgiven – Rev 18:5, Matt 6:14-15, Heb 3:10-19, Heb 4:3-11

4. "the word of reconciliation"

- a. We preach God's provision to men, so that they can possess it – Acts 26:18
- b. Faith is required to partake in God's provision – Eph 1:12, Col 1:23, 1 Cor 15:2
- c. In Christ is salvation, only in Christ is he a new creature – 2 Cor 5:17
- d. Propitiation (satisfying God's justice) is through faith in his blood - Rom 3:25
- e. When sins are forgiven through faith, he can justify through faith - Rom 3:26-28
- f. Not imputing sins & imputing righteousness are linked - Rom 4:6-7, 2 Cor 5:21
- g. Salvation is offered unto all – Rom 3:22, 11:11, 11:15, Titus 2:11, Col 1:5-6
- h. Salvation is universally available, but not universally believed by men – 2 Thess 3:2
- i. It is not a sin problem, but a Son problem; but if they reject the Son, they must deal with their sin.