

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Reconciled to God
2 Corinthians 5:9-21

Last time...the hope we have in this world in these Days of Noah and Days of Lot

- We know God is going to raise us up from the dead by Jesus
- We are promised a perfect, glorified body made by God, eternal in the heavens
- We do groan in the here and now but we walk by faith and not by sight until we are absent from this body and present with the Lord

This time...until that day appointed by our Father in heaven when we move out of this “here and now” body and into the forever body, we must have a clear mind about who we are and how we are to live now

We resume in 1 Cor 5

v9 Wherefore...since we v6-8
we labor...earnestly and eagerly strive
that, whether present or absent...present with the Lord in heaven or absent from the Lord
on earth
we may be accepted...well pleasing
of Him...of the Lord

“May be accepted”...questions that comes to mind:

Is our acceptance by God in question, His pleasure with us in doubt?

Is His acceptance something we have to earn with earnest labor?

We ARE accepted by the Lord,
We ARE well pleasing to Him!

How do we know?
God has said so!

a. “This is My Son in Whom I am well-pleased.”

1. Baptism
2. Transfiguration

1 Cor 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are **sanctified in Christ** Jesus, called *to be saints*, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1 Cor 1:30 But of him **are ye in Christ** Jesus, who of God is **made unto us** wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

- b. Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and **worketh righteousness, is accepted** with him.

Gen 15:6

John 6:27-29

Gal 3:26, 29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus... And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- c. Eph 1:3-6

The Father **IS** well pleased with His children, we need not labor for His pleasure
Therefore having His pleasure, we eagerly and earnestly labor to live in His
pleasure as obedient children of a loving Father
Our labor/obedience is not “forced labor” ala slavery, not a compulsion imposed
by a cruel dictator
But it is a willing, loving service (bondservant) to a Father Who first loved us
As an athlete that loves to play a sport trains vigorously and practices with joy to
get better, so we serve the Lord vigorously and with joy

Ps 42:1 As the deer pants for the water, so my soul pants after You, O God.

So with “accepted” settled, what are we earnestly and eagerly laboring to do in this life?

By walking by faith (trusting God) and not by sight or our merit (trusting Self),

Heb 11:6 without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*

1 Cor 10:5 But with many of them (Jews freed from bondage in Egypt)
God was not well pleased (their unbelief): for they were
overthrown in the wilderness (did not enter into their
inheritance)

we earnestly and eagerly labor/strive against our flesh and the lusts therein:

John 3:30 we decrease and Jesus increase

Matt 16:24 deny Self, pick up our Cross (shame and suffering), and
follow Jesus...His will done, not ours

1 Cor 15:31 die to Self daily

Rom 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not
provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*

Eph 2:3 also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of
our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of
the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath

Heb 4:1-11 enter in the rest of God's completed work

This is our active participation in

- the process of “sanctification”, being conformed into the image of Christ, the progress of which is dictated by our choices to submit to God’s will or insist on our own
- working out our salvation (which has been worked in by God)

Phil 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

And, knowing our sin nature and weakness of our flesh to obey the Lord, why bother with all that labor/striving and working out (before God and man) what God has worked in since we **ARE** accepted and the Father **IS** pleased with His children? Because...

v10 We...the saved, the accepted, the children of God must all...no exceptions, no “free passes” or “rain checks” or TSA Clear line appear before the judgment seat of Christ...we all have an unbreakable appointment to stand before Jesus Christ in judgment by Him

Does appearing before the judgment seat of Christ take your breath away?

Bear in mind:

ONLY the accepted stand before the judgment seat of Christ!

The unaccepted appear before the Great White Throne of God

Rev 20:11-15

Nonetheless, does appearing before the judgment seat of Christ take your breath away? It should!

What about us is being judged by Jesus?

Our sins? Is our salvation at risk (Matt 5:48)?

No, He already paid the acceptable price for them

Our salvation is secure

James 1:12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the **crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

2 Tim 4:7-8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Rev 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and **cast their crowns** before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

But the fruit of our lives He has purchased with His blood must be tried by fire

1 Cor 3:9-15

Done good...gold, silver, precious jewels...the Lord's will done,
for which He rewards us!

Done bad...wood, hay, stubble...our will be done,
for which we will have nothing to show

Works are NOT being judged, our motives are
Was "it" done to serve Self or to serve the Lord and others?

v11a Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord...of sitting in judgment by Him

Matt 25:15-30

Saved by faith and rewarded
or

Condemned by unbelief...and also rewarded

Heb 10:31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

We persuade men

1. to believe/trust the Lord Jesus Christ, the Judge of the whole earth (John 5:22)
Acts 17:30-31 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
 2. to serve the Lord and others vs Self
Matt 22:36-40
James 2:8 fulfill the Royal Law...ye do well
 3. to walk by faith not by sight
Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- Jude 21-23 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

v11b-13 Paul and Co are made manifest to the all-seeing and all-knowing God
God knows their hearts and thoughts and motives
Just as He knows our hearts and thoughts and motives

Heb 4:12-13 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any
twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and
spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the
thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that
is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened
unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

And Paul and Co have so lived their lives before man as well as God
May we also!

Paul and the saints in Corinth (a carnal church) had a difficult, strained relationship
His authority as an apostle was challenged by false teachers dividing the flock
“His” doctrine was also attacked

Having addressed the contentious relationship and their carnal errors in his first letter,
the Apostle Paul now states that he is not getting into it again
He is not going to waste time introducing himself or defending himself and “his” doctrine

But he does offer to give the Corinthians an opportunity to boast on his behalf...
how he lived before God and man compared to those who lived before man

The false teachers lived according to the outward man –

- seen by man, appearances, for show
- for the applause and praise of men
- serving themselves

whereas he has lived according to the inward man –

- seen by God, in the Spirit with the heart of God and the mind of Christ
- for the glory of the Lord
- serving the Lord and others

Some thought that Paul, in what he taught and what he did, was out of his mind
But, being of sound mind, a mind transformed by the mind of Christ,
Paul’s motive in all he said and did was for the glory of God and the good
of others

From the perspective of a worldly mind lost in darkness, Paul was crazy
But in the mind of God, Paul was in his right mind...in once accord with the Lord

Often times an unbeliever cannot understand what we do or say

They may mock us or curse us or persecute us

Sometimes they will make a remark or ask a question, in which case we are to

1 Peter 3:15-17

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For *it is* better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

Why “stick out like a sore thumb” like that?

Why take the abuse?

Why bother saying anything?

v14-15 Because the selfless and Self-last *agape* love of Christ (for us!) compels us to speak and moves us to act on the behalf of the lost/as-of-yet-unaccepted

The Love of the Lord is the motive for what we say and do, both for the Lord and for others

Selfless Love is the pure motive straight from the heart and mind of God for

- our labor as the accepted (v9)
- loving the praises of God more than the praise of men (v12-13, John 12:43)
- “being crazy” in the eyes of the world but being of sound mind in the eyes of God (v12-13, 2 Cor 11:23)

We have concluded from Scriptures (2 Tim 3:15-16):

1. If One (Christ) died for all, then all were dead

Sin and the wages of sin (death) is universal for man-kind

All man-kind is dead in sin

John 8:24b *if ye believe not that I am ~~he~~, ye shall die in your sins.*

John 8:51 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.*

2. He (Christ) died for all so those who live (born again, quickened by grace thru faith) should no longer live (now) for themselves (serving Self) but for Christ (serving the Lord and others), who died for them and rose again on the 3rd day to defeat death (The Gospel of Christ)

Heb 2:14-16 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on *him* the nature of angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Wrong mindedness of man-kind: Love Self preeminently, serve Self

Right mindedness of Jesus-kind: Love the Lord and others, serve the Lord and others

Jesus came teaching and doing the “Love shuffle”, to give a new heart to man-kind

v16 Those with the heart of God and mind of Christ

- are ultimately not interested in what happens to a person’s flesh...
for every body ages and dies
- are predominately interested in what happens to a person’s spirit...
for the person is eternal

Having

- taught by word and by example the “Love shuffle”
- made “the way home”

Jesus returned to heaven and is now, in these bodies, invisible to us

v17 Therefore if any man be in Christ...whosoever will trust Jesus with their eternal being will be accepted by God and will stand before God “in Christ” – in a body made by God, eternal in the heavens
he is a new creature...man-kind (Rom 7:18) transformed into Jesus-kind (Col 1:27)

Gen 1:26-27	God-kind...spirit, clothed in Light
Gen 3	the fall of God-kind to man-kind...flesh, naked/ashamed
John 1:12-13	man-kind made Jesus-kind...spirit, children of the Light

Old things are passed away...sin, death, selfish love of Self, the way we were,
our view of Self, the world, and the things of the world...
a wrong-being estranged from God

ALL things are become new...spirit (breath of God), life, light, love (of God and others),
a right-being in right relationship with God

v18 And all the new things are of God...originate from God the Creator
Jesus Christ changes EVERYTHING!

God has reconciled us to Himself in the Person and work of Jesus Christ

Is 59:2 your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and
your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear.

Ps 32:1-2 Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven, *whose* sin *is*
covered. Blessed *is* the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not
iniquity, and in whose spirit *there is* no guile.

Eph 2:1-6 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this
world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that
now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also
we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh,
fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by
nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich
in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we
were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by
grace ye are saved;) And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us*
sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:

We (the children of God, the accepted by God), as benefactors of God's work of
reconciliation, are given God's on-going ministry of reconciliation of lost sinners
unto Himself

v19 God was in Christ...Jesus Christ is God (John 10:30) and the Father was with the Son
John 8:29 *And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone;
for I do always those things that please him.* (v9 to the max!)

reconciling the world unto Himself...whosoever would believe Jesus is the Christ,
the Son of the Living God the Redeemer and trust Him with their eternal being
not imputing their trespasses unto them...forgiving sinners, wiping clean their record,
expunging all offences, justifying (just-as-if-it-never-happened) enemies

And God has placed in and upon His children, the accepted, the Word of reconciliation to
be shared with other lost sinners and children of disobedience, the still-unaccepted
Because 1 Tim 2:4-6 and 2 Peter 3:9 and Ezk 18:32

- v20 That makes us ambassadors of Christ (John 14:6)
- representatives of Light and Life to the darkness and death of the world
 - messengers of the King of Kings, the Judge of all the earth, before Whom every knee will bow and every tongue will confess to the glory of the Father
 - spokesmen of His words (not our own words!) and His motives (not ours!) as if God has Personally called/invited to say:

“I beg of you, speaking for Jesus Christ, be reconciled to God!!!”

That is our cry, our invitation, our message!

When?

Where?

To whom?

Prov 11:30b he that winneth souls *is* wise.

Prov 13:17b a faithful ambassador is health

- v21 How can the dead-in-sin-enemies be reconciled to the holy Living God?
Just as we were – by believing/trusting what God has done and said

God the Father made Jesus Christ, the perfect and sinless Son of God, to be sin

God transferred all the sin of man-kind onto His Perfect and sinless Son,

Ex 29:10-11 And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock. And thou shalt kill the bullock before the LORD, *by* the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

as His sacrifice for sin (Is 53:10, John 1:29) for all man-kind

that we might...by grace thru faith, not by works lest any man boast
be made the righteousness of God...accepted of God, well pleasing to God
in Him

1 Cor 1:29-31 no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

What happened on the Cross, the brass altar of God?

Biggest change ever!

God the Son made sin

Purity became defiled

Sinner, a child of the devil, made a child of God

Defiled became pure

Best trade ever for man-kind!

Death for Life

Darkness for Light

Lusts for Love

Selfishness for Godliness

Best News ever!

1 Cor 15:3-4

The unholy made holy by the touch of the Most Holy

If not accepted, is rejected by the Biggest Fool ever!

Therefore...[v9](#), [v14a](#), [v20](#)

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

And when our flesh rises up...and we know every time it does...pray!

For the power from on High to say "No!" to the temptation and sin

For another anointing of the Holy Spirit of Christ