

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 18, 2010

“Reconciliation”
2 Corinthians 5:18

The word reconcile (KATALLASSO) means “to change,” or in other words to change the state of a relationship from one characterized by enmity and alienation to one of harmony and closeness.

What do we learn about reconciliation from 2 Corinthians 5:18-20?

The ministry of reconciliation proceeds from God and returns to God (2 Corinthians 5:18).

When Paul spoke of “all these things” he was speaking about all the things associated with having become a new creature in Christ, referenced in 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Paul identified God as the source of the re-creation and all things associated with that re-creation.

Our re-creation and the bestowal of all things associated with that re-creation were made possible when God reconciled us to Himself through Christ.

God was able to reconcile us to Himself through Christ because Christ in dying our death satisfied the righteous demands of the law against us (2 Corinthians 5:14-16).

In a practical sense we were reconciled to God when we first exercised faith in Christ, but in a positional sense, we were reconciled to God when He put enmity to death when He died our death (Ephesians 2:13-16).

Even though God commended His love toward us while we were yet sinners, it did not mean that He was indifferent toward our rebellion (Romans 1:18)

We, as those who have been reconciled to God through Christ, not only have been saved from His wrath, but we have also been given the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18).

When Paul said that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation, this was equivalent to him saying that we have been commissioned to go into the world to preach the gospel (Matthew 28:19-20).

May God give us the grace, as those who have been reconciled to God by God through Christ, to give Him the praise that He is due and to faithfully carry out the ministry of reconciliation that we have been given.

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