

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 25, 2010

“Reconciliation”
2 Corinthians 5:19

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

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

The word of reconciliation needs to be extended to everyone in this world without making distinctions (2 Corinthians 5:19).

The word “namely” (HOS HOTI) is used by Paul to introduce a quick summary of the message associated with the ministry of reconciliation.

The phrase “reconciling the world” in 2 Corinthians 5:19 does not teach universalism, or in other words that all people in this world have been reconciled to God, or in other words saved.

The Scriptures are clear that there is a heaven and there is a hell, and there will be people occupying both (Revelation 20:11-15).

When Paul referred to “the world” in 2 Corinthians 5:19, we must understand that his reference to “the world” is a reference to mankind in general and not to all of mankind in its totality.

When Paul spoke of God reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, he was only referring to those in the world who, because of their faith in Christ, had been joined to Christ through the baptism of the Spirit.

When we exercise faith in Christ and are reconciled to God by God through Christ, it means that God is no longer counting our sins against us (2 Corinthians 5:19 cf. Colossians 2:13-14).

God has committed the word of reconciliation to those whom He has reconciled.

The word associated with the ministry of reconciliation is the gospel and all the truths associated with the gospel, for it is through the gospel that people are reconciled to God through Christ.

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 proclaim the word of reconciliation that we have been given.