

OUR NEED OF RECONCILIATION - 2C 5:18

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INTRODUCTION

1. Kingdom priorities - Lk 16:15. What is the value of *all these things given to us by God* - 2C5:18. Union w/ Christ: *heirs of God & fellow heirs w/ Christ* [R8:17]. We, in X, possess *all things*.
2. We are liable to de-value *all these things*, like Martha - *but only one thing is necessary*, right Mary? Seek 1st the kingdom of God & His righteousness.
3. Paul distills *all these thgs* [v14-15] into 1 specific thg: *reconcil to God*. If we would be faithful stewards of *the word of reconcil*, we must value reconcil.
4. Reconciliation: exchange: restore broken relationship; turn hostility to peace

1st: Man's Hostility Against God

1. ?: "I'm living at war w/ God"? - R5:10 *enemies*; sin is *utterly sinful* [R7:13].
2. We need to see sin in relation to GOD - Ps 51:4. When God stops being God, then sin will stop being sin.
3. Sin is lawlessness [1Jn 3:4]; cosmic mutiny - legal & ontological: violation of law & reality of God being God.
4. Sin is not our circumstance - it is enmity against God. R1:30; 8:7-8. Anger at God as God. Look what men did to God incarnate.

2nd: God's Wrath Against Men

1. Creation is good, but cursed: death - Final Judgment - 2C5:10-11
 - a. For Xn: *no condemnation* [R8:1]; FJ = rewards & inheritance
 - b. For those outside Christ - wrath, indignation, trib, distress [R2:8-9].

2. Experience blessings of salvation now & rejoice b/c *God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation thru our Lord Jesus Christ* [1Th 5:9].
3. How? R 5:8-11 salvation from God's wrath: hell.
4. We were once *children of wrath* [Eph 2:3]; but God reconciled us to Himself in Christ. *Now all these things are from God who reconciled us to Himself thru Christ*.