

- 1 **One Mediator
One Reconciler
One Risen Redeemer**
- 2 **Traditional way to “break” a horse**
 - To break a horse so that it can be ridden, the horse is first weighed down for hours (and sometimes days) until the horse’s will is broken.
 - Then the horse is made to get used to the saddle and eventually the weight of the rider.
- 3 **Monty Roberts**
 - But Monty Roberts explains to an audience that through words, hand signals, and eye contact, that he will communicate with the horse and gain its trust.
 - With this “language,” he gains the trust of the horse as he and the horse are reconciled together.
- 4 **Monty Roberts (2)**
 - Monty can saddle and ride any horse that has never been ridden before within 30 minutes. And he does so in front of crowds of people.
 - One this happens, he asks the crowd of 2-3000 people to scream, stomp their feet, and make loud noises. The horse panics and runs wild.
- 5 **Monty Roberts (3)**
 - But then Monty “communicates” with the horse and it will come by his side and Monty can mount it and ride it even while the noise continues.
 - Monty explains that he can do this because he has RECONCILED with the horse and gained its trust.
- 6 **A willing partner**
 - Monty also raises and trains horses for sale.
 - He refers to these horses as Willing Partners™
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- 7 **Our reconciliation**
 - Satan and the world weight us down with sin in order to stifle the freedom God wants us to have. We are broken down with sin, guilt, and death.
 - But on the cross, Jesus removed that weight of sin and the pressure of the world. When Jesus was lifted up (on the cross), Satan was cast down.
 - Now, we are RECONCILED to Christ and He has earned our trust (if we have received Him as Savior).
 - Now, we are to be the Willing Partners of Jesus Chris in sharing His love with the world.
- 8 **Colossians 1:13-16**

[The Father] Who has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have the redemption, the forgiveness of sins, 15 who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, 16 because all things in the heavens and on the earth were created by him, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers, all things were created through him and for him,

9 **Colossians 1:17-20**

17 and he himself is before all things, and in him all things are held together, 18 and he himself is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he himself may become first in everything, 19 because he was well pleased for all the fullness to dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile all things to himself, by making peace through the blood of his cross, through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

10 **Colossians 1:21-23**

21 And although you were formerly alienated and enemies in attitude, because of your evil deeds, 22 but now you have been reconciled by his physical body through death, to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you remain in the faith, established and steadfast and not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

11 **Colossians 1:24-26**

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings on behalf of you, and I fill up in my flesh what is lacking of the afflictions of Christ, on behalf of his body which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister, according to God's stewardship which was given to me for you, to complete the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations, but has now been revealed to his saints,

12 **Colossians 1:27-29**

to whom God wanted to make known what is the glorious wealth of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory, 28 whom we proclaim, by admonishing every person and teaching every person with all wisdom, in order that we may present every person mature in Christ, 29 for which purpose also I labor, striving according to his working which is at work powerfully in me.

13 **WHO IS THIS CHRIST?**14 **The 7 roles of Christ in Colossians**

1. The Image of the invisible God (1:15)
2. Firstborn over all Creation (1:15)
3. The Creator and the Sustainer (1:16-17)
4. The Head of the Church (1:18)
5. The Preeminent Architect of the Resurrection (1:18)
6. The Fullness of God (1:19)
7. The Reconciler and Peacemaker (1:20)

15 **HOW DO WE GET THIS RECONCILIATION?**16 **Paul says Christ is ALL we need!**

- Paul defends Christ's sufficiency to reconcile men to God by discussing four aspects of reconciliation
 1. The means of reconciliation
 2. The aim of reconciliation
 3. The evidence of reconciliation

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17 **THE PROBLEM THAT REQUIRES RECONCILIATION**

18 **Colossians 1:20-21**

- *"and through him to reconcile all things to himself, by making peace through the blood of his cross, through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and enemies in attitude, because of your evil deeds,"* (Colossians 1:20–21, LEB)

19 **The problem**

- God created a perfect world.
- Man's sin marred that world.
- The creation was "subjected to futility" (Rom. 8:20) and "groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now" (Rom. 8:22).
 - One evidence of creation suffering is the Second Law of Thermodynamics. It indicates that the universe is losing its usable energy. If God did not intervene, the universe would eventually suffer a heat death—all available energy would be used up, and the universe would become uniformly cold and dark.

20 **All of us before reconciliation**

- Before their reconciliation, the Colossians were completely estranged from God.
- In a similar passage, Paul writes, *"You were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ"* (Eph. 2:12-13).
- Non-Christians are detached from God because of sin; there is no such thing as an "innocent heathen." All unbelievers suffer separation from God unless they receive the reconciliation provided in Jesus Christ.

21 **A natural hostility toward God**

- The Colossians had also been hostile (can be translated "hateful") in mind.
 - Unbelievers are not only alienated from God by condition, but also hateful of God by attitude.
 - They hate Him and resent His holy standards and commands because they are engaged in evil deeds. Scripture teaches that unbelievers *"loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed"* (John 3:19-20). Their problem is not ignorance, but willful love of sin.

22 **Romans 1:21-24**

"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasoning, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God with the likeness of an image of mortal human beings and birds and quadrupeds and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the desires of their hearts to immorality, that their bodies would be dishonored among themselves," (Romans 1:21–24, LEB)

23 **THE POWER FOR RECONCILIATION**

24 **Only one solution**

- The only means of reconciliation to God is:
 - The “blood of His cross” (v. 20)
 - The “body of His flesh through death” (v. 22)
- Paul’s assertions are a direct confrontation to the Docetic Gnostics who said Christ did not have a material body.
 - They believed that anything material was sinful
 - So, they reasoned, Christ could not have been a physical being or He would have been sinful
 - But their heresy negated the doctrine of Christ’s atonement for His death on the cross would not be possible.

25 **A day we will not forget**26 **A tragedy still keenly felt**27 **A powerful testimony**

- When the World Trade Center collapsed, the force and heat permanent fused 2 steel beams into a 20-foot-high cross. It was kept on site.

28 **Atheists believe the cross’ power!**

- The American Atheist group – founded by Madalyn Murray O’Hair -- demanded the cross’ removal from the World Trade Center site.
- But, in doing so, they revealed their faith in the power of the cross. If it didn’t have power, why were they so upset?
- A three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit found that the cross, located at ground zero, was “a symbol of hope” and historical in nature. It did not intentionally discriminate against a group of atheists who sued to have it removed, they ruled.

29 **THE PLAN FOR RECONCILIATION**30 **We live in a cursed universe.**

- Both the earth and the rest of the universe are under the baleful influence of Satan, who is both “the god of this world” (2 Cor. 4:4), and “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2).
- The devastating effects of the curse and satanic influence will reach a terrifying climax in the events of the Tribulation. Some of the various bowl, trumpet, and seal judgments are demonic, others represent natural phenomena gone wild as God lets loose His wrath. At the culmination of that time of destruction and chaos, Christ returns and sets up His kingdom.

31 **The reverse of the curse**

- During His millennial reign, the effects of the curse will begin to be reversed. The Bible gives us a glimpse of what the restored creation will be like.
- Isaiah 11:6-9 – *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. 9They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters*

cover the sea."

32 **Changes to come...**

- The changes in the animal world will be paralleled by changes in the earth and the solar system:
 - *Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders. (Isa. 24:23)*
 - *The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven days, on the day the Lord binds up the fracture of His people and heals the bruise He has inflicted. (Isa. 30:26)*

33 **A new light**

- *No longer will you have the sun for light by day, nor for brightness will the moon give you light; but you will have the Lord for an everlasting light, and your God for your glory. Your sun will set no more, neither will your moon wane; for you will have the Lord for an everlasting light. (Isa. 60:19-20)*

34 **A new heaven and new earth**

- Revelation 21:1 says there will be a new heaven and a new earth. (Other done away with fervent heat) 2 Peter 3:10-12 – *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

35 **No more air pollution**

- God doesn't even want the air of this world – polluted by the prince of the power of the air.

36 **No universal salvation**

- Some people misinterpreted "reconcile all things until Himself" to teach universal salvation – that everyone is saved – all men and all angels. But this contradicts other Scripture:
 - Some have imagined all things to include fallen men and fallen angels, and on that basis have argued for universalism, the ultimate salvation of everyone. By so doing they overlook a fundamental rule of interpretation, the *analogia scriptura* – That principle teaches that no passage of Scripture, properly interpreted, will contradict any other passage.
 - When we let Scripture interpret Scripture, by *all things* Paul means all things for whom reconciliation is possible. That fallen angels and unregenerate men will spend eternity in the lake of fire is the emphatic teaching of Scripture.
 - Our Lord will one day say to unbelievers, *"Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels,"* and they *"will go away into eternal punishment"* (Matt. 25:41, 46).

37 **Revelation 20:10-15**

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the

heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

38 **God will forever remove "polluters"**

- Anyone that could defile the new heaven and new earth (the unredeemed) are forever removed and cast into the Lake of Fire.
- We need to be reconciled because we are ALIENATED without Christ.
 - To impress on them Christ's power to reconcile men to God, Paul reminds the Colossians of what they were like before their reconciliation.
 - They were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds. Alienated means "estranged," "cut off," or "separated."

39 **Christ's death reconciled us to God**

- *"and might reconcile both in one body to God through the cross, killing the enmity in himself"* (Ephesians 2:16, LEB)
- We could not do that on our own for these 4 reasons (in Romans 5:6-10)
 1. Lack of strength: "we were still helpless" (v. 6).
 2. Lack of merit: we were "the ungodly" (v. 6).
 3. Lack of righteousness: "we were yet sinners" (v. 8).
 4. Lack of peace with God: "we were enemies" (v. 10).
- It is only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ that anyone can receive reconciliation

40 **THE PURPOSE OF RECONCILIATION**

41 **To present us holy before the Father**

- God's goal in reconciliation is to present His elect holy and blameless and beyond reproach before Him.
- Paul expressed a similar desire for the Corinthians: *"I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin"* (2 Cor. 11:2).
- Jude tells us that we will one day *"stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy"* (Jude 24).
- Such purification is necessary if sinners are to stand in the presence of a holy God.

42 **The meaning of holiness**

- "Holy" means to be separated from sin and set apart to God. It has to do with the believer's relationship with Him.
- As a result of a faith union with Jesus Christ, God sees Christians as holy as His Son. God *"chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him"* (Eph. 1:4).
- *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the*

righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

43 **The meaning of blameless**

- Blameless means without blemish.
- It was used in the Septuagint to speak of sacrificial animals (Numbers 6:14).
- It is used in the New Testament to refer to Christ as the spotless Lamb of God (Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19).
 - *"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve the living God?"* (Hebrews 9:14, LEB)
- In reference to ourselves, reconciliation gives us a blameless character.

44 **The meaning of "beyond reproach"**

- Beyond reproach goes beyond blameless. It means not only that we are without blemish, but also that no one can bring a charge against us (cf. Rom. 8:33).
- Satan, the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10), cannot make a charge stick against those whom Christ has reconciled.

45 **CHRIST-COLORED GLASSES**

- Christ's reconciliation makes believers holy, blameless, and beyond reproach before Him.
- God sees us now as we will be in heaven when we are glorified. He views us clothed with the very righteousness of Jesus Christ.
- The process of spiritual growth involves becoming in practice what we are in reality before God.
- We "have put on the new self" and that new self *"is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him"* (Col. 3:10). T
- The Christian life involves *"beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord and being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit"* (2 Cor. 3:18).

46 **Next time...**

- We will conclude our study of reconciliation by looking at:
 - The Permanence of Reconciliation
 - The Perversions of the Doctrine of Reconciliation

47 **Have you been reconciled to God?**

- Judicial reconciliation
 - Have you accepted the Lordship of Christ and been reconciled to God?
 - Has the weight of sin have been removed from you?
 - Do the conflicts from Satan and the World now only drive you closer to Christ because you trust Him and are a WILLING PARTNER with Him?
- Practical reconciliation
 - Are you up-to-date with asking God to restore the joy of your relationship with Him that you lost through daily sins?