

God Reconciled Us To Himself Through Christ - 2 Cor 5:18

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INTRODUCTION

1. 2C 5:18 - Focus on God who then gives us stewardship of the message of reconciliation
 - i. v19 - the explanation
 - ii. v20 - the communication
 - iii. v21 - the reconciliation
2. J.I. Packer: "God saves sinners."

1st: God Reconciled Us To Himself

1. We will spend eternity coming to know God. *God reconciled us to Himself.*
2. We must not trivialize grace due to minimizing the evil of sin. Philip Hughes, D.A. Carson; John Piper. Sin offends GOD!
3. Reconciliation from God, thru God, to God. Amazing grace!
4. The unchanging God changes us - in union with Christ.
5. Reconciled us *to Himself*. Not to "self."
6. Legal basis: the obedience of Jesus as our representative & substitute.

2nd: Through Christ

1. Repeated references to *Christ* [v14,16,17,18,19,20]. It is *thru Christ* that God reconciles us to Himself.
2. Our reconciliation is legal - based on Jesus' work as our Priest-King. [1T 2:5-6; Heb 8:1; Rm 8:33-34]. Legal substitution - 2C5:21.
3. Our reconciliation is living, personal, loving - Leon Morris

4. Reconciliation is not from us but from God thru Christ who we declare in the gospel. Meditate, praise - rejoice in Christ in whom you are reconciled to God.