

INTRODUCTION

1. 2Sam 18 - Ahimaaz: a messenger w/o a message.
2. 2C5:18-19 *ministry of reconciliation* - stewards of *word of reconciliation*

1st: We Must Explain God's Activity in Christ

1. v19 - *namely, that*: how that... explanation of v18.
2. What God did & does: objective information communicated & interpreted faithfully: *namely that, specifically, that is...*

2nd: God's Reconciling Activity

1. v19a the verbs: *was - reconciling*. God's activity v18
2. If we isolate *G was in Christ*, sounds like doct of incarnation. But Paul is describing God's activity *in Christ*, not the deity of Christ: *God was reconciling* = subject & verb.
3. Interesting verbs: past action coupled w/ ongoing present action: *was* = past action & *reconciling* & *not counting* are participles, ongoing action.
 - i. *has committed to us* is also past action: having been *reconciled* [v18] God *gave us* ministry of reconcil & *committed to us* word of reconcil
4. v19a - God was acting *thru Christ* [v18], *in Christ* [v19] & continues to act by HS in ministry/word of reconcil: *reconciling* & *not counting trespasses*
5. Reconciliation concerns what God does - Rm 11:36

3rd: God's Reconciling Activity in Christ

1. We confess the deity of Jesus - divine Messiah, Savior. He is our Mediator [Jn 14:10; 5:19; 17:4; Jn 19:30]
2. God reconciles us *through, in* the resurrected & enthroned Jesus whose mediating ministry involves the work of the HS.

Applic #1: The Gospel is News About God's Activity in Christ

1. Gospel begins w/ indicatives: statements of fact re: the historical Jesus: life, death & resurrection. Jesus is the good news of the gospel
2. Our message is "Jesus" - in whom God has reconciled us.

Applic #2: The Father, Thru Christ, Has Given Us a Work to Do For Christ

1. Eph 2:10 we have a work to do - Tit 2:11-14 let us *adorn the doctrine of God our Savior*: make attractive. A moral beauty - an ordered life & ordered truth.
2. Regardless of our callings - we all have a God-assigned work to do as ministers of this word of reconciliation. Let us not be messengers w/ no message.