

God effects the restoration of all things in a new creation by reconciling to Himself the elect from every nation through the double imputation of our sins to Christ and of Christ's righteousness to us.

1) God accomplishes cosmic restoration through the reconciliation of rebels from every nation (5:17-20).

- a) v. 17—"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ—new creation!"—the promised new creation "in Christ" (1 Cor. 15:23; 2 Cor. 5:14-15); "new creation" and "old things/new things" echoes Isaiah 43:18-19; 65:17; 66:22 (cf. Rev. 21:1, 5); Individual salvation is connected to cosmic restoration.
- b) v. 18a—"All things are from God"—restoration of the cosmos, "all things" emphasizing Divine monergism—that is, that God alone performs the work of regeneration (cf. Rom. 8:21; Eph. 1:10; Col. 1:20).
- c) v. 18b—"Who through Christ reconciled us to Himself"—the reconciliation of rebels to God is directly related to cosmic restoration.
 - i) Man created as vice-regent of cosmos under God—Peace between God and man; Peace in the cosmos
 - ii) Man rebelled against God's supreme regency—War between God and man; Conflict in the cosmos
 - iii) God, in and through Christ, restores peace with rebels from all nations—Peace between God and some men; War between God and some men; Eager expectation of peace in the cosmos
 - (1) v. 19a—"Reconciling the world to Himself"—international scope—"the world"; particularity—"in Christ"
 - (2) v. 19b—"Not counting their trespasses against them"—Peace is achieved by the removal of the offense against God.

2) God accomplishes the reconciliation of rebels through the substitutionary death of Christ for sin (5:21a).

- a) "The one who knew no sin"—Christ had no sin of His own for which to pay.
- b) "For us"—"in our place"
- c) "He made sin"—Christ took the guilt of our sin upon Himself (cf. Gal. 3:13).
 - i) Penal Substitution/Vicarious Death—He stood in the place of particular sinners
 - ii) Objective Payment—Actual Satisfaction of God's Demands—He paid the full debt of those particular sinners
 - iii) Effectual Operation—Accomplishing Actual Reconciliation—God no longer counts the trespasses of those particular sinners

3) God accomplishes the reconciliation of rebels through the gift of righteousness in Christ (5:21b).

- a) "We might be made the righteousness of God"—All of God's righteous requirements are met for us. Now we have the status of righteous subjects and vice-regents.
- b) "In Him"—Christ is all our righteousness.

4) Application: "Be reconciled to God" (5:20).

- a) Reconciliation is accomplished by God in Christ objectively and applied by the Spirit in effectual calling (Irresistible Grace).
- b) Reconciliation is subjectively experienced upon reception of God's grace
- c) Even faith is a gift that was purchased by the work of Christ (Eph. 2:8; Phil. 1:29).
- d) Reconciliation with God means a blessed relationship of peace with God.
 - i) Assurance of the love of God
 - ii) Life well-ordered under the authority of God
 - iii) The restoration of all things which began with Christ continues in His Church(2 Cor. 5:14-15).

Doxology: "To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."—Revelation 1:5b-6