"THE MIRACLE OF RECONCILIATION"

Colossians 1:20-23
6/12/2016

INTRODUCTION:

***Reconciliation is one miracle you can have forever!**

I. The Miraculous <u>PEACE</u> of Reconciliation (v. 20)

II. The Miraculous <u>POWER</u> of Reconciliation (v. 21)

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HRM Bible Study - 5-15-2021

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EX: the miracle of Paul's conversion. From an enemy of Christ to the beloved apostle of Christ.

***Reconciliation is one miracle you can have forever!**

I. The Miraculous PEACE of Reconciliation (v. 20)

The word "reconcile" means to bring two people (whose relationship has been severed) back into a friendship relationship with each other.

A. Peace Because of the Blood

"The blood of His cross" - the blood shed on the cross.
Christ's death was the only time in human history, that bloodshed brought peace to man.

How does Christ's blood reconcile? Man's sin separates him from God (Is. 59:2). Christ's blood cleanses away sin (I Jn. 1:9).

Therefore, that which came in between man and God has been adequately and completely removed, making peaceful relations between man and God.

B. Peace For All Believers

"All things" (ta panta) = all those
Those do not get reconciled, only people do.

"All things" = All those who are living on earth and those saints who have died throughout history (both O.T. and N.T.).
"By Him . . . unto Himself" - Jesus is both the reconciler and the reconcilee. It is by Him and to Him that we are reconciled.

No man reconciled himself to God. No priest or religion reconciles man to God. Only Jesus Christ can!

II. The Miraculous POWER of Reconciliation (v. 21)

"Were sometime" - formerly, before redemption, we all were aliens and enemies of God.

*ALIENS

"Alienated" - to be a stranger to God.

When we speak of an "alien" what usually comes to mind is some green, big-eyed creature from out of space that invades the earth.

An "alien" describes a foreigner, someone you do not know personally. All unbelievers are "aliens" to Christ; therefore, He will say at Judgment Day: ". . . I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Mt. 7:23).

This verse proves that no one is born with a relationship with God.

No one is automatically a Christian. No one is independently Godly. On the contrary, we are from childhood - aliens and enemies of God. We are hopelessly depraved - unable to please God, aimlessly lost - in our own world of spiritual darkness (SEE Rom. 3:10f for the plight of mankind - cp. Psalm 14:1-3).

*ENEMIES

"Enemies" - to be hostile, to be at war with.

To not be for Jesus is to be against Him.

We were all against Him, if not overtly, then covertly -- in our minds, that is, in our thoughts.

God's evaluation of mankind: Gen. 6:5 - "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

He again testifies that "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Gen. 8:21).

"The carnal mind (the mind of the unsaved) is enmity against God."

Our alienation and hostility toward God is caused "by wicked (evil) works."

"Men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds (works) were evil." (Jn. 3:19).
John 7:7 - "The world cannot hate you; but Me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil."

"Mind . . . works" - Both in thought and deed; both in attitude and action we displayed our animosity toward Jesus Christ.

Jesus died for us when we were "without strength . . . yet sinners . . . enemies" (Rom. 5:6, 8, 10).

Though we are Gentiles, yet we are no longer strangers!

(SEE: Eph. 2:12-20)

What a power God has to transform a former alien into His own child . . . to change former enemies into friends!

This is the miracle of miracles!

III. The Miraculous PRICE of Reconciliation (v. 21b - 22a)

V. 21b

"Yet now" - in contrast to our past.

The word "now" shows the present abiding reconciled relationship that we enjoy.

"He reconciled" - past, completed action. Reconciliation for the believer is an accomplished fact, not an uncertain fate.

V. 22a

"In the body of His flesh" - the Gnostic heretics at Colossae taught that Christ did not have a physical body (because according to their philosophy the physical flesh was evil).

To counter such false teaching, Paul affirms that it was by the physical death of the God-Man (Christ) that man becomes reconciled to God.

"Through death" - by means of death. Had Christ never died for sin, all of humanity would die in sin.

As paradoxical as it may sound to unbelieving ears, "Christ's death brings life!"
(II Pet. 3:18)
What a miracle!

The beloved text - II Cor. 5:17 ("new creature... old passed ... all ... new") is in a context of reconciliation (SEE II Cor. 5:18-21).

IV. The Miraculous PURPOSE of Reconciliation (v. 22b)

Christ's purpose in reconciling you was to present you before God as:

1) Holy (totally set apart from sin) -

2) Unblamable (without spot or blemish) - Eph. 1:4 - "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

3) Unreproveable (irreproachable; unaccused; free from guilt - though the "accuser of the brethren" (Rev. 12:1-12) spews out accusations, God does not accept them (SEE Zech. 3).

"In His sight" - lit. down in the eyes of

In the eyes of God, those who are reconciled are spotless!

In man's eyes, a Christian may seem flawed, defective, imperfect, blemished, marred, etc. (and we are) but in God's sight, we are pure and undefiled (Eph. 5:27 - "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: but that it should be holy and without blemish.").

It doesn't matter how we look in man's sight, but how we look in God's!

V. The Miraculous PROOF of Reconciliation (v. 23)

This verse does not teach that "continuance in the faith" is the means to reconciliation (for on the contrary, Christ's blood is! - v. 20, 22), but that it is the evidence or proof of reconciliation.

The miracle of reconciliation is seen in that those reconciled as children and friends of God remain that way!

1) They are "grounded" - firmly founded on Christ the foundation.

2) They are "settled" - solidly firm and steadfast - anchored to the Rock!

3) They are "not moved away" - not constantly shifting or moving from their hope (confidence) in the gospel.

"Paul used an architectural image in this verse -- a house, firmly set on the foundation. The town of Colossae was located in a region known for earthquakes, and the word translated moved away can mean "earthquake stricken." Paul was saying, "If you are truly saved, and built on the solid foundation, Jesus Christ, then you will continue in the faith and nothing will move you. You have heard the Gospel and trusted Jesus Christ, and He has saved you."." (Wiersbe, p. 63).

One who is truly reconciled cannot lose it! Therefore, his continuance in the faith is a token of his continuance in his reconciled relationship to God.

The disciples in Acts 2:42 "continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine."

Jesus said: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (Jn. 8:31).

Contrast with: the false disciples (Jn. 6:65-68); Demas (I Tim. 4:10); those who departed from church fellowship (I Jn. 2:19 - "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, hat they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.").

A true believer will continue, though he may even need exhortation to do so (Acts 13:43; 14:22).

CONCLUSION: