

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – February 18th, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith Topic: Reconciliation of Man to God

Main Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Key verse: *2 Corinthians 5:18– ‘Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation’ (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: To be reconciled means ‘to restore to friendship or harmony’. It suggests a rift or separation that requires a coming together. The process of reconciliation usually involves one party extending an invitation to the other party to come back into relationship with one another. Through the history of time, God has extended an invitation to man to come into fellowship with Him. In Genesis, God created Adam to be like Him (Genesis 1:26-27). Man was the only created being that enjoyed the privilege of being like God, evidence of a special relationship. When Jesus died, the veil in the Temple was torn in two, symbolizing an invitation to man to come into a direct relationship with God through Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:51). And in Revelations 3:20, Jesus said “*Behold I stand at the door and knock...*”. Likewise, throughout the Old and New Testament, and even today, we find many examples where God delivered His children out of their troubles in demonstration of His love and compassion towards us, so that we might believe in Him and trust in Him completely. We find the culmination of this love in Jesus Christ in John 3:16. And so all evidence points to the indisputable fact that it is not God’s will that any should perish, but that all should be reconciled to Him, in genuine repentance through the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4).

1. Read John 3:16; Matthew 11:28; Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Corinthians 5:18 (a) What efforts has God made to reconcile man to Himself? (b) What is the implication of this gift of reconciliation being free? Ephesians 2:8-9; Luke 7:50 (c) 2 Corinthians 5:19 says that God no longer counts people’s sins against them. Does this mean that men can go on sinning? Why or why not? See Romans 6:1-2.

In His final moments on earth, Jesus charged the disciples with preaching the Gospel to all nations (Matthew 28:19). “*Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” *Matthew 28:20 NLT*. This was the ministry of reconciliation. We are admonished to teach, instruct, and show people the way. To be an ambassador means to be a representative, of a person, a country, a brand or some other entity. As Ambassadors of Christ, we are to be His representatives, modeling godly behavior, reflecting the life of Christ that is in us and showing compassion and mercy to those who are lost, imploring them to come to Jesus. This ministry of reconciliation is the most important ministry for the believer, whose singular purpose is making disciples of men. This ought to be at the forefront of our daily lives.

2. (a) In 2 Corinthians 5:16, what does Paul mean when he says that they had stopped evaluating others from a human point of view? (b) In reconciling men to God, why is it important that we stop evaluating people from a human point of view? Read 1 Samuel 16:7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:23. (c) As ambassadors of Christ, how should we go about reconciling men to God in a practical sense? What does this look like on a day to day basis?

When we accept Jesus into our hearts, something happens. The Bible calls it a transformation. A change. From old to new. Our minds are renewed. Our attitudes are renewed. We begin the process of being conformed into the image of Christ. This is what happens in the wake of reconciliation to God. Our ways begin to conform to His ways, as we yield to His will over our will. This is the blessed assurance that we hope in. That one day, we too will be like Him. Old things are passed away, behold all things are made new!

3. (a) 1. What are some of the challenges that make it difficult for man to accept God’s offer of reconciliation? (b) How can we help one another overcome those challenges in our lives? (c) What is the evidence of the new life in a person when they accept the gift of reconciliation? (Read Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:5,8-10).

Prayer: *Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for reconciling me to God! Help me to be an Ambassador for You, that Your character may be seen in me and Your Light may shine through me. Help me to see men as You see them, that I may prioritize the reconciliation of men to You, in Jesus Name, Amen*