



Be Reconciled to God

By Ken Terry on April 27, 2022

TODAY'S READING: 2 Corinthians 5

In our reading today, the apostle Paul speaks to the assurance of the believer's resurrection. These passages of scripture are comforting, saying this life is not all there is, and we are only temporary residents in this very hostile world. We will suffer as all mankind will, we will get sick, catch some life altering disease and die. However, for the followers of Christ, this is but a waypoint in our existence, *"For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens"* (2 Corinthians 5:1 NKJV).

Yes, we are confident and assured that our final destination will be with Christ Jesus, as we transition to heaven for all eternity. Therefore, do not allow yourselves to get bogged down and burdened with the issues, circumstances and conditions of this life. My friends, we must keep our eyes on the prize--being transformed bodies, taking off the mortality of flesh, and putting on immortality! These are the promises of God, and He has provided us a guarantee to this end, *"Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee"* (2 Corinthians 5:5 NKJV).

So where, my friends, are you in your walk with Christ? Are you going along, to get along with the world around you? Or are you taking a stand for Christ and boldly speaking the things of God? These are the questions we need to wrestle with every day. You see, we should not have days where we take off and pursue activities that stimulate of flesh. We should make ourselves available every day for spiritually stimulating conversations in the name of Jesus! There is no reason for any of us to negate this mandate of Jesus. Paul shares another reason for you to have this Christlike mindset--it is well pleasing to the Father, *"Therefore, we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad"* (2 Corinthians 5:9-10 NKJV).

Everyone will give an answer at the judgement seat of Christ. So, my friends, it would behoove each of us to stop straddling the fence when it comes to abiding in Christ. Obedience to the word of God is what is necessary, as well as walking the path of Christ-like righteousness. Neither is easy, but both are necessary as we engage in the world around us. We have to "stand out and stop blending in." Some may not understand fully why this is necessary? In our reading Paul gives us great clarity as to why. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation"* (2 Corinthians 5:17-18 NKJV).

Through Christ Jesus we are new creatures with new spiritual objectives and goals. Our lives are no longer our own, we belong to Him who suffered, died and arose from the dead. Therefore, I encourage you to walk as you have been called in Christ Jesus! Listen to how the apostle Paul shares this final thought, *"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God"* (2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV).

PRAYER: Our Father in the heavens, Jehovah God, we thank You for reconciling us, Your created beings, to Yourself. Father, all of us have the ability to walk in a righteous manner. However, we stumble, trip and fall at times. Father, please help us stay on the righteous path of Christ. Help us, Father, to focus on our life in Him and Your reconciled design's effect in our spiritual lives; specifically attaining the level of consciousness of not living for ourselves but living for Christ who lives in us. Father, we ask these things in the matchless name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 2 Corinthians 6

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