

SERMON OUTLINE

'Gospel Words'

Study - 6

'Reconciliation'

Romans 5 v1 - 11 & 2 Corinthians 5 v11—21

There are 6 key gospel words which help us to understand what the Christian gospel is all about:-

Regeneration, Justification, Redemption, Propitiation,
Sanctification, Reconciliation

This word 'reconciliation' resonates with us. We're forever reading about it and hearing about it. The word means - 'to change', and refers to a change in a relationship in that where there was once a state of enmity, there is now a state of peace. Examples.....

Reconciliation in personal relationships
Reconciliation in industrial relationships
Reconciliation in political relationships

The most important kind of reconciliation is the reconciliation which is spiritual - reconciliation between God and man. See - 2 Cor v20b. There's nothing more important!

Practical example and living illustration of reconciliation - The parable of the prodigal son. The wonder of the gospel is not just that God longs for there to be reconciliation (like the father in the parable) - He actually does something to bring it about.

1. THE NEED FOR RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

The word 'reconciliation' implies a broken relationship. There are 2 things which we should note about this....

A. THE CAUSE OF IT

See - Rom 5 v6 - 8. The cause of it is sin. This takes us back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, sinning - and then being banished from the Garden. See - Is 59 v2

B. THE SERIOUSNESS OF IT

See - Rom 5 v9 - 10. It's not just that we are enmity with God, it's that God is at enmity with us. This is why we need God's reconciling gospel so much.

2. THE MEANS TO RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

Note - it's God who brings about the reconciliation. It's God (not us) who takes the initiative. See - 2 Cor 5 v18a & 19a. But how does God do this?

A. NEGATIVELY - WHAT HE DOESN'T DO

See - 2 Cor 5 v19a/b & Ps 130 v3

B. POSITIVELY - WHAT HE DOES DO

See - 2 Cor 5 v21 & Eph 2 v13, v18

'Learn to know Christ and him crucified. Learn to sing to him and say - "Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; yet on me what was yours. You became what you were not, that I might become what I was not".'

Martin Luther

Note - This reconciliation not only has a vertical dimension, it has a horizontal dimension. That is - not only reconciliation between God and man, but between man and man. In Christ, irreconcilables are reconciled!

3. THE IMPLICATIONS OF RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

A. THIS RECONCILIATION WILL NEED TO BE PREACHED

See - 2 Cor 5 v18 - 20. Our theme for the Autumn Term

B. THIS RECONCILIATION WILL NEED TO BE PRACTICED

See - Matt 5 v23 - 24