

6/14/20

Immanuel Lutheran, Macomb IL

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### **Reconciled How?**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The text is Romans, chapter 5.

The question for this sermon is we know that our works do not get God to be reconciled to us. Who would disagree that therefore through faith we get God to be reconciled to us? We will arrive at the answer by examining the epistle for today.

Romans 5:6. *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

When we had no power to do anything that was good, when we were strengthless and hopeless, then Christ died for us. This is a wonderful gospel expression, which ought to bring comfort to those here who have no pretence of godliness, “Christ died for the ungodly.” While it is difficult for us to consider an infant as ungodly, the definition of being ungodly includes not just disobedience, but also unbelief in the true Triune God.

Pick out all those who are the naturally good people, and this text has nothing to do with them; but find out the ungodly, the sinful, the wicked, and here is a text exactly suitable for them: “Christ died for the ungodly.”

Romans 5:7. *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die:*

However upright and just a man may be, nobody thinks of dying for him.

Romans 5:7. *Yet perhaps for a good man some would even dare to die.*

That is to say, for a generous, kind, noble-hearted man, some might dare to die.

Romans 5:8. *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

We were neither righteous nor yet good, yet Christ died for us. “Oh!” said a little boy once to his mother, “I do not think so much of Christ dying for men, I think I would be willing to die if I could save a hundred men by dying.” But his mother said, “Suppose it was a hundred mosquitoes, — would you die for them?” “Oh, no!” he said, “I would let the whole lot of them die.” Well, we were much less, in comparison with Christ than mosquitoes are in relation to men, yet he died for us, good-for-nothing creatures that we are as we confess that we are poor, miserable sinners deserving nothing but temporal and eternal punishment.

Well does one say, “God shows part of his love to us in many different ways, but he shows the whole of his love in giving Christ to die for us.” Here you see his heart laid bare, the very heart of God laid open for the inspection of every believing soul. To die for saints would be great love; but to die for sinners, while they are yet sinners, and regarding them as sinners, — this is love with emphasis, the very highest commendation that even divine love can have.

Romans 5:9. *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

See; it is a less thing for God to preserve us when we are justified than it is for him to justify us while we are yet sinners. The final perseverance of the saints may well be argued from their conversion, their entrance into glory is guaranteed by the ransom price that Christ has paid for their redemption. He died to save sinners, so how is it possible that he should let saints perish? Oh, no; that can never be! “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

But how did we get God to be reconciled to us. The answer to that question as well as the question asked at the beginning of this message as to what you need to do to get God reconciled to you is about to be answered. First, it is clear from Exodus 20 that obedience to the commandments cannot get God to be reconciled to us. Listen:

And God spoke all these words, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me. (Exo 20:1-3 ESV)

Even more noteworthy is the passage from 2 Corinthians 5: (17-21)<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

<sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;

<sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

It's a difference between Law and Gospel. In every religion in the world, God is the problem. But in Christianity man is the problem.

Romans 5:10. *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Notice that while we were his enemies, he blessed us, so now that we are reconciled to him, will he not still bless us? If he reconciled us to him by the death of his son, will he not save us by his life now that we are reconciled to him? Does he make us his friends, intending afterwards to destroy us? Perish such a thought. This verse is like a trident, it is a three-pronged argument for our eternal safety. I will read it again: “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be raved by his life.”

Surely we have got high enough when we have reached an absolute certainty of our eternal salvation. Yet we are to go still higher: “And not only so,” —

Romans 5:11. *But we also joy in God* —

Even now we joy in God, “although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olives shall fail, and the field shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls,” yet do “we joy in God” —

Romans 5:11. *Through our Lord Jesus Christ*, —

Every blessing comes to us through him. How Paul delights to harp upon that string! He says continually, “through our Lord Jesus Christ,” —

Romans 5:11. *By whom we have now received the atonement.*

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, we are at one with God, we are reconciled to him by the death of his Son. All our sin is forever put away. We have received the atonement, and we rejoice in the God of our salvation Glory be to his holy name for ever and ever!

John 3:16 For God so loved Tom Baker that He gave.... Feel better? No, because I would keep wondering whether there was another Tom Baker that was meant. Instead, for God so loved the world.....

Amen.

**Prayer of the Church    Second Sunday after Pentecost    14 June 2020**

Let us pray:

For the Church, that she would faithfully continue the work of the 12 apostles, and that God would bless her every effort to enlarge His flock, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those called to be parents, that God would strengthen and preserve their faith so that they may be well equipped to lead and teach their households. Grant rest and peace of mind to all who are overwhelmed by the responsibility of their vocation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy**

For those who are sick and suffering, that God would look with compassion upon His servants who are facing mental or physical illness, surgery, pain, loneliness or grief, *especially during this pandemic.* that they may be reminded that they are not facing these things alone and be comforted with the hope of eternal life. Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**