

What The Bible Says About ---

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

Part Nine

The Great Doctrines Of Salvation

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RECONCILIATION

Review: Thus far we have explored

- Conversion - man calls upon God to turn him around and change his life. This requires repentance and faith.
- Justification - this is the reversal of God's attitude toward the sinner because of the sinner's new relationship with Christ (just-as-if-I'd never sinned).
- Regeneration - this is the new birth, the impartation of Christ's life into your being
- Sanctification - a separation to God, purification from moral evil and conformation to the image of Christ.

Tonight: RECONCILIATION – which is the restoration of friendship and harmony with God....settling all differences between us....submitting totally to His higher authority.

2 Cor. 5:17-20

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. [18] And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. [20] Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Dr. Henry Theissen: *At first God and man stood face to face with each other (in the Garden of Eden). In sinning, Adam turned his back on God. Then God turned His back on Adam. Christ's death has satisfied the demands of God and now God has again turned His face toward man. It remains for man to turn around and face God. Since God has been reconciled by the death of His Son, man is now entreated to be reconciled to God.*

So RECONCILIATION is the ministry of changing completely. But....who changes?

1 God cannot change because of His immutability - that is, He never changes. So it is the
2 sinner who must change. This change is possible only because of what Jesus
3 accomplished for you and me on the Cross:
4

5 Col. 1:20-23

6 **It was through what his Son did that God cleared a path for everything to come to**
7 **him--all things in heaven and on earth--for Christ's death on the cross has made**
8 **peace with God for all by his blood. [21] This includes you who were once so far**
9 **away from God. You were his enemies and hated him and were separated from him**
10 **by your evil thoughts and actions, yet now he has brought you back as his friends.**
11 **[22] He has done this through the death on the cross of his own human body, and**
12 **now as a result Christ has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are**
13 **standing there before him with nothing left against you--nothing left that he could**
14 **even chide you for; [23] the only condition is that you fully believe the Truth,**
15 **standing in it steadfast and firm, strong in the Lord, convinced of the Good News**
16 **that Jesus died for you, and never shifting from trusting him to save you. This is the**
17 **wonderful news that came to each of you and is now spreading all over the world.**
18 **And I, Paul, have the joy of telling it to others.**
19

- 20 • It is vital to remember that it is NOT GOD who is reconciled for He does not
21 change. You and I cannot mold God into our image. Reconciliation starts
22 when we understand it is WE who will be conformed into the image of Christ.
- 23 • The position of the world changed when Christ died on the cross. Today God has
24 His arms outstretched to a lost world. **WHOSOEVER WILL - MAY COME!**
25 The worst sinner in the world can come to God.
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27

28 **NO ONE IN THE WORLD CAN CHANGE GOD'S MIND ABOUT YOU -
EXCEPT YOU!**

29
30 John 8:1-11

31 **Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. [2] And early in the morning he came again**
32 **into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught**
33 **them. [3] And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in**
34 **adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, [4] They say unto him, Master,**
35 **this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. [5] Now Moses in the law**
36 **commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? [6] This they said,**
37 **tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with**
38 **his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. [7] So when they**
39 **continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without**

1 sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. [8] And again he stooped down, and
2 wrote on the ground. [9] And they which heard it, being convicted by their own
3 conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and
4 Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. [10] When Jesus had
5 lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are
6 those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? [11] She said, No man, Lord.
7 And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

8
9 We don't know for sure what He wrote, but it might have been Jeremiah 17:13: **O Lord,**
10 **the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from**
11 **me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain**
12 **of living waters.** At any rate, the woman's detractors quickly left the scene.
13 Jesus was the only One who could have thrown a stone at her. He did not do so. Rather
14 He said, "Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more. 2 Cor. 5:19: **God was in**
15 **Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them;**
16 **and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

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It is important to note: Jesus did not shut His eyes to her sin; instead He went to the cross with it!
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20 **NOW RECONCILED, WE BECOME CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS - HIS**
21 **EMISSARIES ON EARTH.**

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23 **2 Cor. 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech**
24 **you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

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26 Now....who or what is an ambassador? An ambassador is a minister of the highest rank
27 accredited to a foreign government. Well, we are certainly in a foreign environment,
28 are we not? We are pilgrims and strangers on this earth Paul reminded us of this:
29 Philip. 3:20 (The Living Bible) **But our homeland (citizenship) is in heaven, where**
30 **our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is; and we are looking forward to his return from**
31 **there.**

32 The Importance of Being An Ambassador

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- 35 1. An ambassador is sent only to a nation with which there are reasonable "relations."
36 * That means God is still dealing with this world through believers
37 * When God withdraws His "ambassadors" (at the Rapture), the world has "had it."
38
 - 39 2. An ambassador represents his or her sovereign (government). The ambassador does

1 set up his or her personal policies.

2 * Some believers think they can write their own rules and make their own policies.
3 That clearly indicates they are not RECONCILED to God.

4 * An ambassador KNOWS what his or her government expects and represents that
5 responsibility with courage and honor.

6 * An ambassador would never knowingly violate his or her government's dictates.
7 The ambassador is under orders.

8 * An ambassador faithfully represents and declares the assignment.

9
10 **IN THIS STUDY, WE HAVE EXAMINED**

11 **Conversion....**

12 **Justification....**

13 **Regeneration....**

14 **Sanctification....**

15 **And Reconciliation**

16 **THE UNDERLYING FOUNDATION FOR THESE IS THE CROSS!**

17
18 There is none of those five gifts of God without the Cross and Jesus death upon it. Paul
19 made that very clear:

20
21 1 Cor. 1:17-24

22 **For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of**
23 **words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.**

24 **[18] For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us**
25 **which are saved it is the power of God. [19] For it is written, I will destroy the**
26 **wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. [20]**
27 **Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not**
28 **God made foolish the wisdom of this world? [21] For after that in the wisdom of**
29 **God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of**
30 **preaching to save them that believe. [22] For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks**
31 **seek after wisdom: [23] But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a**
32 **stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; [24] But unto them which are**
33 **called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

34
35 Galatians 6:14

36 **But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by**
37 **whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.**

38
39 The Bible I use most of the time is the LIFE IN THE SPIRIT STUDY BIBLE, published

1 by Zondervan and compiled and edited by a marvelous AG missionary Donald C. Stamps.
2 Stamps completed that massive work just six weeks before his death by cancer. He was
3 one of the world's foremost scholars. In a magazine article, Stamps wrote:

4
5 "There are those in the Pentecostal movement who feel no need to defend the biblical
6 faith as did the New Testament apostles. Rather

7 - They glory in their tolerance for all kinds of doctrines as long as those doctrines are
8 accompanied by a professed experience with the Holy Spirit.

9 - They are attracted to successful preachers who openly scorn the apostolic faith.

10 - They lack sympathy and affection for the true spirit of the Bible which rebukes and
11 reproves false doctrine.

12 - They seem ready to accept without challenge nearly anything for the cause of
13 "unity" or the success of their own ministry.

14 - It is tragic that their inability to recognize that distortion of the Pentecostal/Biblical
15 faith will result in millions of souls being eternally lost.

16
17 In light of today's "cheap grace" theology, one must ask:

18 1. Where are the Apostles?

19 2. Where are the Stalwarts (always abounding in the grace of God)?

20 3. Where are the life-changing conversions?
21

I believe the answer to those questions lies in the fact that so many churches have
ABANDONED THE CROSS. (There are alleged evangelical churches even here
locally who have taken down the cross from their sanctuaries. Their reason? The
cross offends some people.

22 The cross is the very center - the fixed point - of our faith! Romans 4:25 **Who was**
23 **delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.**

24
25 Throughout the epistles of Paul, this theme of THE CROSS is repeated again and again:'

26
27 Romans 5:6-10

28 **For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**

29 **[7] For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man**

30 **some would even dare to die. [8] But God commendeth his love toward us, in that,**

31 **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. [9] Much more then, being now**

32 **justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. [10] For if, when**

33 **we were enemies, [we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son], much more,**

34 **being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**
35

1 The fact of my life is: I cannot live the life of Christ in my own power. But I can have
2 victory over sin through the indwelling Christ (Christ in me, the HOPE OF GLORY).
3 How do I know that?
4

5 Romans 6:1-2

6 **What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? [2] God**
7 **forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?** There is the key
8 phrase, "dead to sin." We do not receive deliverance from the power of sin by our
9 conquering it.....but rather by DYING to it.

10 HOW DO WE DIE TO OUR SINS?

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13 1. When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, we became his progeny, transgressors by
14 NATURE and WILL.

15 It is pointless to attempt to camouflage our natures. Underneath the paint jobs resides
16 the old nature.

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18 2. God must begin a whole new creation with us. My old life ends at the cross. It dies
19 there and from that death a new creature with me is begun.

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21 3. The hardest truth in the gospel for me to accept is this: THERE IS ABSOLUTELY
22 NOTHING GOOD IN MY NATURE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD:

23 Romans 3:10-23

24 **As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: [11] There is none that**
25 **understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. [12] They are all gone out of the**
26 **way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not**
27 **one. [13] Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit;**
28 **the poison of asps is under their lips: [14] Whose mouth is full of cursing and**
29 **bitterness: [15] Their feet are swift to shed blood: [16] Destruction and misery are in**
30 **their ways: [17] And the way of peace have they not known: [18] There is no fear of**
31 **God before their eyes.**

32 **[19] Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are**
33 **under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become**
34 **guilty before God. [20] Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be**
35 **justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

36 **[21] But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being**
37 **witnessed by the law and the prophets; [22] Even the righteousness of God which is**
38 **by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no**
39 **difference: [23] For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**
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1 So here is the conclusion: My life does not need “adjustment” or “improvement.” It
2 needs to die and be resurrected to new life! Ephesians 2:1 **And you hath he**
3 **quicken** (resurrected from the dead), **who were dead in trespasses and sins;**
4

5 This is precisely why Jesus told Nicodemus, YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN. And
6 Paul adds: Galatians 5:24 **And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with**
7 **the affections and lusts.**

8
9 How do we crucify the flesh? Galatians 5:16 **This I say then, Walk in the Spirit,**
10 **and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**

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12 A good re-reading of Bunyan’s “Pilgrim’s Progress” would help explain our day-to-day
13 journey with Christ.

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16 When next we meet: **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL.**
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