

without hope, that they too might believe and receive as we have the righteousness of Christ and promise of eternal life.

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¹2 Corinthians 5:14-21; ²2 Peter 3:9; ³Mark 10:45; Titus 2:14;
⁴1 Peter 3:18; ⁵Matthew 28:18-20; ⁶Acts 1:8; ⁷cf. Matthew 28:19;
Acts 14:21; ⁸2 Corinthians 5:14-15; ⁹Romans 14:7-8;
1 Corinthians 6:19-20; ¹⁰1 Corinthians 6:12-13;
¹¹2 Corinthians 5:18,20; ¹²vs. 19; ¹³vs. 20; ¹⁴1 Timothy 2:4;
¹⁵2 Corinthians 5:21

EVANGELISM

Being Christ's Ambassadors



Evangelism is a privilege given to a Christian by God to be involved with Him in reconciling the lost to Himself.¹ This is a task which is very important to God since He patiently waits for the unbeliever to repent, “not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”²

It is important for Jesus as well to see the lost reconciled to His Father.³ This is the reason why He came to earth to die on a cross.⁴ Even after His death and before His ascension, Jesus commissioned His disciples to reach the lost,⁵ not only those who live around them, but by going to the ends of the earth to do so.⁶ Therefore each believer has a personal responsibility to share their faith and make disciples.⁷

Second Corinthians 5 addresses this task we have been given. There Paul states that the love of Christ is to be our motivation to do evangelism, the love He showed when He died on the cross in our place. This love is to control us.⁸ Through this act of love He also purchased and reconciled us to Himself; therefore we are no longer our own.⁹ We belong to Him, being His instruments for His purposes.¹⁰

Since we have been reconciled to God, He has given to each of us the ministry of reconciliation; to go out into the world as His ambassadors.¹¹ As His ambassadors, we are to take His message which “He has committed to us” to the lost world, “namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them.”¹² Therefore we are to make a plea to the lost, “as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”¹³ What strong words! “We beg you!” “Be reconciled!” This is God’s appeal on Christ’s behalf. They want unbelievers to be saved. Believers too are to have this same strong desire, because God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”¹⁴

Paul ends this passage with these words, “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”¹⁵ Our sinless Savior Jesus Christ died for us so that we could be righteous like Him. He took our sin upon Himself. Having done this for us, it is His desire that we go out and take this message to those around us who are dying and