

Readings

- 2 Corinthians 5:20
- Romans 5:11 (*The word ought to be “reconciliation” not atonement*) It is a legitimate question to ask: “Who says the word should be changed from ‘atonement’ to ‘reconciliation’?” This is based on the following:
 - a) *The context is reconciliation, see verse 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”. . . By whom we have now received the reconciliation.” Atonement means “to cover” and the context is not the covering of our sins (atonement is what there was under law), but the fulness of the place we have now in Christ (see ch. 5:1-2, 9).*
 - b) *The Greek word translated “reconciliation” in Rom. 5:10 is closely aligned with the word translated “atonement” in v. 11. The Greek word in 5:10 is “Katallasso” and in 5:11 it is “Katallage”. The difference being Katallasso is a verb and the word in v. 11 is a noun. The word of v. 11 is only found in 4 places in the New Testament, and with the exception of Rom. 5:11, it is always the truth of reconciliation (Rom. 11:15; 2 Cor. 5:18, 19).*

Introduction

- 1) There was an era when there was a degree of God consciousness in homes. People went to church on Sunday and Bibles were found in many homes.
- 2) The result of this was many who were baptized as babies, confirmed in the church, and partakers of the Eucharist, found it hard to understand that they needed to be reconciled to God. Indeed, for such to be told they needed to be saved was a dreadful insult. In all sincerity they believed that which they had been taught, which was just do the best they can and God, will in the end, weigh the good deeds against the bad and they would get through the pearly gates.
- 3) It may be the narrative of Nicodemus was undoubtedly known by many, but the truth that he was a very religious man and high up in the church did not change the reality of his need to be born again. It was the Lord who told him: “Ye must be born again” (Jn. 3:7). Surely if he needed reconciliation by the new birth, so do we.

What Needs To Be Known Before One Can Be Forgiven and Reconciled To God?

- 1) Thank God for the scriptures, God’s revelation to man of all that is needed to be known to be reconciled to God.
- 2) There are five truths which need to be known and understood:
 - a) I am a sinner by heredity, self will, and nature.
 - b) The need to believe. I can do nothing for my own reconciliation to God.
 - c) The recognition that the word for reconciliation to God has been completed by the Lord at Calvary.
 - d) The accepting of God’s salvation as a gift received by faith.
 - e) When such is done God forgives my sin, changes me, and I am reconciled to God.

The Path of Salvation

- 1) **I am a sinner**
 - a) Romans chapters 1-7 and Ephesians 2 is God’s revelation of what I am.
 - i) I am a sinner, manifested by what I do. (Rom. 1:18-31)
 - ii) I am a sinner because of the fallen nature I have due to my parentage. (Rom. 5:12-19)
 - iii) I am a sinner because this thing called sin is in me. (Rom. 7:7-17)

- 2) **The need to believe I can do nothing for my own reconciliation to God**
 - a) Not by works (Eph. 2:9; Titus 3:5)
 - b) Not by religious activities (Heb. 10:11)
 - c) Not due to religious background (Acts 23:6; Phil. 3:3-6)
 - d) I am without strength (Rom. 5:6)
 - e) I am an enemy (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21)

 - 3) **The recognition for reconciliation to God has been completed by the Lord at Calvary**
 - a) What God does is forever . . . “Nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it” that is, there is no partially finished works (Ecc. 3:14).
 - b) When on the cross in the three hours of darkness:
 - i) God laid upon Christ the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:6).
 - ii) The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin (1 Jn. 1:7).
 - iii) He cried: “It is finished” (Jn. 19:30).

 - 4) **The accepting of God’s salvation as a gift received by faith**
 - a) For by grace are ye saved through faith (Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 3:15).

 - 5) **When an individual accepts God’s gift of salvation, at that moment they are reconciled to God.**
 - a) Through whom we have received the reconciliation:
 - i) Note the context, enemies
 - ii) Rom. 5:11 the word ought to be “reconciliation” not atonement.
 - iii) We, that is individuals, to whom Paul was speaking who had been saved (Rom. 1:7).
 1. “**Have**”, present tense, not have had and lost, that can never be, nor is it “hope to have”. It is something we are assured of now in life.
 2. “**Received**”, not something I gained, attained to
 3. The only reconciliation that is important is the reconciliation with God.
 4. Reconciliation, full unbroken fellowship with God.
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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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