

# The Ministry of Reconciliation

2Corinthians 5:16-6:2 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. <sup>[a]</sup> 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 <sup>[b]</sup> 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.

6 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says,

"In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

# Notes & Comments

## 2Corinthians 5:16-6:2

### Summary: (Outline)

- The Master Plan of Reconciliation – Redemption (v. 18)
- The Ministry of Reconciliation – Missions (v. 18)
- The Message of Reconciliation – Gospel (v. 19)
- The Ministers of Reconciliation – Ambassadors (v. 20)

### Two Ways to Regard People: vs. 16-17

#### 1. After the Flesh

#### 2. In Christ

- a. Where the old has passed away
- b. Where the new has come – creation is made new

v. 18 tell us . . .

- The new is **FROM** God - **Source**
- The new is **THROUGH** Christ - **Agency**
- The new is shared **BY** those who are reconciled – experienced “newness” (Paul, others & Us). - **Agents**

### Two Categories of People: vs. 18-6:2

1. Those who **need to be reconciled to God (the Mission)**
2. Those who **have been reconciled and are involved in the ministry of reconciliation (the Missionaries)**

V. 21 How is reconciliation possible? – the Sacrifice of Christ

- The results of reconciliation = righteousness imputed to us, fulfilling God’s righteousness

6:1 The ministers of reconciliation work with God. – imploring, appealing, persuading (v. 11)

- The ministers of reconciliation must work with urgency, sincerity and humility.

6:2 Today is the day of salvation – be reconciled!

- Today is the day of harvest – be a minister of reconciliation!
  - If we do not live believe in Christ and live for Him, grace is in vain.
  - If claim we believe in Christ and we do not work for Christ, grace is in vain!
  - In reconciliation, God not counting trespasses, but bestowing, grace, mercy and righteousness