

SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL LITERACY

RECONCILIATION TO GOD

Summary of Reconciliation

God created Adam without sin. Adam; however, voluntarily rebelled against God. This rebellion is called sin. As a sinner, all of Adam's offspring are born with a sin nature. We are also sinners by our practice. We sin against God in many ways: in thoughts, in words, and in actions. Sin is vile and wicked in the sight of a Holy God. God is so perfectly Righteous that He will not have fellowship with unrighteousness. God is so Just that He must punish sin. We have made ourselves the enemies of God. Our sin has separated us from Him. There is nothing we can do to reconcile ourselves to God. God alone can reconcile us to Himself. Reconciliation means to "change thoroughly, the changing of places, or coming over from one side to the other". Because of His Love and His Goodness, God has done the only thing that could be done to reconcile us to Him. God, the Eternal Son, became flesh in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. He lived a perfect life and then offered Himself up as a sacrifice to receive the punishment we deserve for our sin. Jesus, who was sinless, took the full penalty for our sin through His suffering and death on the cross. God's justice was satisfied and the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead. The Lord Jesus Christ has purchased and provided our reconciliation to God. God has declared that all who will abandon their way and trust solely in the Lord Jesus Christ will be forgiven of every sin, will be credited with Christ's righteousness, and will thus be reconciled to God. This is the marvelous message that God has left Christians on this earth to proclaim, so that others may receive the gift.

Outline of Reconciliation

- I. The Separation (Various Scripture passages)
- II. The Savior (Various Scripture passages)
- III. The Summons (Various Scripture passages)

** This study has been prepared using the **King James Version** of the Holy Bible.*

I. THE SEPARATION

1. Read Romans 5:12. Answer the following questions concerning sin's entrance into the human race:

(a) How did sin enter the human race? "Wherefore, as by _____ sin entered into the world"

Note: This was Adam's transgression in the garden. See Genesis 2:17, 3:6

(b) What is the result of sin? "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and _____ by sin; and so _____ passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"

(c) Were the effects of sin limited to Adam, or did it affect his future offspring as well? "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon _____ men, for that _____ have sinned"

2. Read Ephesians 2:3. What is our natural state as sinners? "Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by _____ the _____ of _____, even as others."

3. Read Romans 3:23. Apart from Adam's sin, have we personally sinned against God? "For _____ have _____, and come _____ of the glory of _____"

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4. Read Colossians 1:21. Since God is righteous and we are unrighteous, what is our relationship with Him as sinners? “And you, that were sometime _____ and _____ in your mind by _____ works, yet now hath He _____”

Note: “Alienated” expresses the idea of being shut out from one’s fellowship and intimacy. “Enemies” expresses the idea of being on opposing sides. Together this describes our complete separation from God. Reconciliation restores the fellowship and intimacy of man with God and places mankind on the right side.

II. THE SAVIOR

5. Read Romans 5:10. What did it take for God to reconcile us unto Himself? “For if, when we were _____, we were _____ to God by the _____ of His _____, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Note: God did not need to be reconciled to us. We are the transgressors. We needed to be reconciled to God. The fact that God has chose to provide a Way of reconciliation for us is purely of His grace.

6. Read John 3:16. Why did God do this? “For God so _____ the world, that He _____ His only begotten _____, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

7. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. According to Verse 21, how did the suffering and death of Jesus Christ allow sinful man to be reconciled to God?

(a) Christ was treated as though He had committed our sin. “For He hath made _____ to be _____ for _____, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

Note: In other words, He took the punishment we deserve.

(b) Christ was sinless. “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew _____; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

Note: In other words, He was our sinless substitute. No other person could make this sacrifice because their death would have merely been their deserved punishment for their own sins. Christ had “no sin”.

(c) We are credited with Christ’s righteousness. “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; THAT _____ might be made the _____ of God in _____.”

Note: Not only has Jesus Christ delivered us from the penalty of unrighteousness, we are also credited with the righteousness of His life.

8. For a more thorough understanding of this wonderful message of reconciliation through the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ, read the following Verses:

(a) 2 Corinthians 5:18 “And all things are of God, who hath _____ us to _____ by _____, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;”

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(b) 2 Corinthians 5:19 “To wit, that God was in Christ, _____ the world unto _____, not _____ their _____ unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”

Note: “Imputing” means to put on one’s account, to take account of, or to reckon.

(c) Colossians 1:20 “And, having made peace through the _____ of His _____, by Him to _____ all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”

(d) Colossians 1:21 “And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He _____”

(e) Colossians 1:22 “In the body of His flesh through _____, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight:”

(f) Hebrews 2:17 “Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make _____ for the _____ of the people.”

(g) 1 Peter 3:18 “For Christ also hath once _____ for sins the _____ for the _____, that He might _____ us to God, being put to _____ in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:”

III. THE SUMMONS

9. Read Mark 1:14-15. How does man respond to receive this wonderful gift of forgiveness, righteousness, and reconciliation? “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: _____ ye, and _____ the _____.”

Note: “Gospel” means good news. The coming of Jesus Christ, our sinless substitute, is a marvelous message to be received. We now proclaim the Gospel that Christ has come and He has paid the penalty for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). We can be reconciled to God through Him.

Note: “Repent” means to change one’s mind. The idea expressed here is a heartfelt change in one’s complete assessment concerning their self-willed and sinful way, and an abandonment of it. (See also Acts 26:17-18 and Matthew 16:24-26.)

Note: “Believe” means a trust, surrender, and reliance upon. In reference to saving faith, this denotes a trust in the Lord Jesus Christ on the basis of His atoning death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. Some synonyms for saving faith in the Scriptures are to “follow” (Matthew 16:24) – it is directional and active; to “receive” (John 1:12) – it appropriates what Christ has done; to “eat” (John 6:51) or “drink” (John 6:53-54) – it makes Jesus the sustenance of one’s life; to “call” (Romans 10:13) – it looks to the Master; and to “obey” (2 Thessalonians 1:8) – it is submissive and obedient.

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10. Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. Who has been given the privilege of sharing this wonderful message of reconciliation with the world? “And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath _____ to _____ the _____ of _____; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath _____ unto _____ the _____ of _____.”

11. Read 2 Corinthians 5:20. How are we to fulfill this privilege and responsibility? “Now then we are _____ for _____, as though God did _____ you by us: we _____ you in _____ stead, be ye _____ to God.”

Note: An “ambassador” is a representative and spokesperson for a sovereign. As Christians, our role is that of representing and declaring the message of the King of kings – Jesus Christ.

Note: “Beseech” means to beg or entreat. “Pray”, used here, means to beg or long for. Having received the forgiveness and reconciliation to God through Christ, we should heartily seek for others to respond to the glorious good news of Jesus.