

RCMI L-Path Teaching
November 13, 2022

TITLE: Jesus Christ, The Great Reconciler

TEXT: Colossians 1: 19-23

BIG IDEA: The way that each person can be reconciled to God is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

INTRO:

- *The worthiness of our Christian walk is based on our knowledge of God and understanding His will.* Our faith walk is proportional to our understanding and belief in the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ.
- Paul refutes the Colossian heresy by presenting the supremacy of the person and the work of Christ. Read Colossians 1: 20-23.

Jesus Christ, The Great Reconciler

- “There is one Gospel, and it is universal and applicable to all cultures. The Gospel is universally applicable because the one great need of all human beings is the same: they all need to be reconciled with the Creator.”- George Martin.
- **Reconciliation means renewing a friendship or restoring the *right relationship*.**
- Paul told this church that if anybody was going to be saved—reconciled to God—it must be through Christ. He is the only one who can renew our relationship with God.
- **In Colossians 1:20-23, we find at least two truths about the message of reconciliation.**

I. Reconciliation Is By Jesus Christ Alone. [Colossians 1: 20b-22]

A. We considered the problem: Man is separated from God because of sin. He cannot obey God and will not seek God. So, how, then, can a man be reconciled to God?

- Paul says: “But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation” - Colossians 1:22
- He declares that through Christ’s death, the redeemed man has become without blemish and free from accusation. How can this be? How can a sinful man be holy in God’s sight?
- **This teaches a truth seen throughout Scripture called substitution.**
- The sacrificial lamb in the Old Testament was only a picture of substitution.
- This symbolized the perfect lamb that would die for the sins of the entire world: Jesus Christ. What happened with Jesus, however, was not a symbol; it was the reality. There was a substitution when he died on the cross for the sins of the

people. He took the sins of every person in the world and bore the wrath of God for them.

- Those who accept Christ as their Lord and Savior will have his work on the cross applied to their account. He bore our sin and the just wrath of God, and we took on his perfect righteousness. [2 Corinthians 5:21]
- The only way for man to be reconciled was by the substitutionary death of the perfect lamb. We are now acceptable to God because He sees us as His perfect Son. His righteousness is directly applied to our account.

B. What are some applications of the fact that we have become Christ's righteousness and are now holy and free from accusation?

- Since we are Christ's righteousness, we must practice righteousness in our daily lives.
- Since we are Christ's righteousness, we must not accept the condemnation of Satan, ourselves, or others. (Rom. 8:1). We must realize this is an important truth to continue to walk in Christ's victory, especially when we stumble.

II. Reconciliation Comes Through Faith. [Colossians 1: 22-23a]

A. The Condition For Man To Be Reconciled

- How does a person receive reconciliation with God? Paul teaches in this text that a person is saved through faith in Christ. (Col. 1:22-23).
- Scripture everywhere teaches that salvation, and thus reconciliation, is by grace. It is by unmerited favor that anyone is saved. We cannot earn it; we cannot work for it. It is a work of grace, but this grace gives us the faith to put our trust in Christ. [Ephesians 2:8-9]
- Belief in Christ or faith is the means to be saved.

B. What are the characteristics of this faith in Christ that bring reconciliation to those who trust him?

- True Faith Believes in The Content Of The Gospel.
 - *What is the content of the gospel?* The content is an admission that one cannot save one's self.
 - This reality drives a person to come to Christ and be saved.
 - He realizes that he needs a savior. The content is the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for the sins of the world. (1 Cor. 15:2-4).
 - This is the content of the gospel. But it must be noted that intellectual belief is not enough.
- True Faith Is Committed To The Lord Of The Gospel.
 - The word "**faith**" used here in Colossians 1:23 is more than intellectual belief. In Greek, this word can be translated as "trust," "commit," or even

“obedience.” True faith is a commitment to the will and not just the mind.
[Matthew 7:21–23]

- o The message of reconciliation is that we are reconciled to God by faith in the Son. *This faith has a doctrinal element: believing in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for the sins of the world. But it also has an element of commitment and obedience to him. When you believe something, it should affect how you live.*
- True Faith Perseveres In Following Christ As Lord. [Colossians 1:23]
 - o Perseverance of true faith is taught throughout Scripture.
 - o True faith believes in the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is committed to the Lordship of Christ, and finally, it always perseveres.

CHALLENGE: All true believers have been given the ministry of reconciliation. We are called to let God speak through us as He reconciles people to Himself. We must understand this message of reconciliation, we must protect it, and we must share it.

DISCUSSION:

- What have you learned from the passage this morning?
- How can we be reconciled with God?
- What is our responsibility as ministers of reconciliation?