

Christ's Birth for the Purpose Reconciliation
2 Corinthians 5:17-6:2

"I would stand in a sense of awe and worship, and in reverent amazement. Here is God the omnipotent, pleading Almighty God, our fortress, our deliverer, our strength, to Whom the nations are but drops in the bucket, Who has all power in heaven and in earth committed to Him—pleading! Surely this plea for the love of another, this begging that an enemy would put away his enmity, is the part of the one who is inferior, the one who has offended, the offender rather than the offended. It is the place of the rebel, not the King, to plead. But here is deity in the person of God in Jesus Christ breaking through all the patterns of human relationships and human precedents; here is God omnipotent in heaven bending down to this little planet in which there had been a total rebellion against His rule, and saying to the rebel race who lie helpless at His feet, 'I beg you to be reconciled to God.'

Why should God do that? Because the rebel, though he be helpless, chained, and absolutely powerless, is unconquered by heaven until his heart lies broken before God." Redpath

- I. We bow before Jesus Christ and fully acknowledge that he is Lord, to the glory of the Father. He made himself nothing, he emptied himself of his glory and came into this world through natural birth, in a miraculous way through the virgin Mary as fully God yet fully man. He did this with the expressed purpose of bringing about reconciliation between himself and mankind, who is alienated from him because of sin.

2 Cor. 5:17-18

Phil. 2:6-11

Acts 4:12

Jer. 1:5

Ps. 139:16

Acts 10:36

Luke 2:14 *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

- II. God knew that we couldn't solve our sin problem ourselves, so he provided a way for us to be made right with him through His Son. Jesus came into this world to give us the message of reconciliation, so that those who believe his message and accept his offer of grace and peace could be presented to God as holy in his sight without blemish and free from accusation.

2 Cor. 5:19-20

Matt. 5:9

Rom. 5:8-11

Romans 4:8 *Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD will never count against them."*

Colossians 1:21-22 *21Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22But 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-*

- III. As ambassadors for Christ, we have been given the responsibility to express the message of reconciliation he offers, the gospel, through what we say and how we live. The Lord asks, begs, implores those he is drawing, to be reconciled with him through our witness. Our imputed righteousness warrants that we value the peace and grace that is permanently ours in Christ by treating others in ways that make Christ's peace and grace appealing to them.

2 Cor. 5:20-6:2

Matt. 5:9

δέομαι déomai = to ask, beg

Isaiah 49:8a *This is what the LORD says: "In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you;*