

Sunday, February 11, 2018—Grace Life School of Theology—Ambassadorship 101—Lesson 6  
Understanding the Ministry of Reconciliation, Part 2

### **Forgiveness and Justification**

- As far as I can tell, the advocates of this new doctrine believe that the entire world was RECONCILED to God and FORGIVEN of all their sins 2,000 years ago when Christ died upon the cross. However, if you don't realize that or believe that, you are not JUSTIFIED, and go to hell with your sins forgiven.
- On January 11, 2018 I posted the following on Facebook:
  - "I have been watching the debate among Pauline Right Dividers regarding whether or not everyone is automatically forgiven since 2013. Those who argue that all sin was FORGIVEN 2,000 ago will say there is a difference between FORGIVENESS and JUSTIFICATION. Those articulating this position assert that ALL sin was FORGIVEN at the cross, but one must trust Paul's gospel in order to be JUSTIFIED. This a misuse of the word JUSTIFICATION. Noah Webster's "American Dictionary of the English Language" (1828) defines the word JUSTIFICATION as follows:

"4. In theology, REMISSION OF SIN and absolution from GUILT and punishment; or an act of free grace by which God pardons the sinner and accepts him as righteous, on account of the atonement of Christ."

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/justification>

The very same dictionary defines the English word REMISSION as follows:

"5. FORGIVENESS; pardon; that is, the giving up of the punishment due to a crime; as the remission of sins."

<http://webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/remission>

It is therefore a contradiction to assert that one is FORGIVEN but not JUSTIFIED. According to the meaning of English words, one cannot be FORGIVEN without being JUSTIFIED because to be JUSTIFIED means to be FORGIVEN. This of course means that for the sake of consistency that if one is going to assert that all are FORGIVEN they must also assert that all are JUSTIFIED. If all are automatically JUSTIFIED that is UNIVERSAL JUSTIFICATION.

The razor's edge is a dangerous place to be.

Even the Middle English Dictionary acknowledges that the word justification means:

"God's act of imparting forgiveness and grace to man and absolving him of his sins"

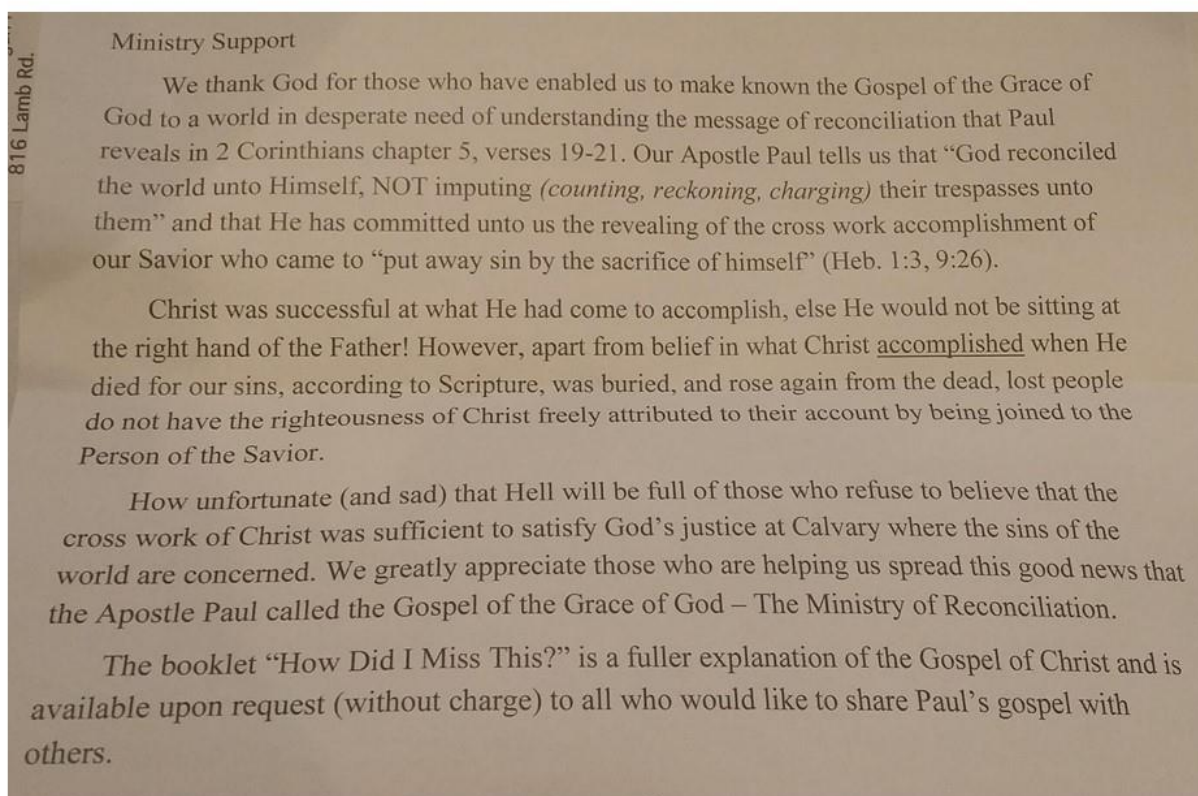
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All sin has been PAID FOR but one must trust Paul's gospel in order to receive JUSTIFICATION i.e., the FORGIVENESS of sins as a FREE GIFT.”

- It is a massive confusion and/or misuse of terms to say that one can FORGIVEN but not JUSTIFIED. One cannot be FORGIVEN without being JUSTIFIED and vice versa.

### What is II Corinthians 5:19 Talking About?

- One of the ways people go sideways in II Cor. 5:19 is by misquoting the verse. Consider the following image taken from a recent Grace publication authored by Curt Crist



- Notice how when verse 19 is quoted its contents are altered to read as follows: “God **reconciled** the world unto Himself. . .” The text in the King James Bible reads, “To with that God was in

Christ **reconciling**. . .” The author of this publication has altered the meaning of the verse by changing the process of “reconciling” to the past accomplished fact of “reconciled.”

- The primary meaning of II Cor. 5:19 is dispensational not individual. Paul is speaking about the basis upon which the body of Christ can be formed, and any individual reconciled to God.
- Romans 11:11-15—is the primary cross reference for II Cor. 5:19. It was through the fall of Israel that Christ brought about the reconciling of the world unto himself. When Israel was rendered in unbelief (Acts 7) and fell from their favored “Time Past” standing, there was no longer any difference between Israel and the Gentiles. This allowed for God to reconcile the world unto himself without distinction through the fall of Israel.
- Christ accomplished this upon the cross and no one knew about it until the Pauline revelation was made. The mechanics by which the body of Christ could be formed were brought about by Christ’s work upon the cross.
- Ephesians 2:13-18—the provision that accomplished the reconciling of Jew and Gentile and the formation of the one new man took place 2,000 years ago upon the cross. Please note the fundamental components of our definition of reconciliation in these verses:
  - Verse 13—the Gentiles who were far off in “time past” are brought nigh by the blood of Christ.
  - Verse 14—Christ’s work upon the cross made peace between these two parties (Jew and Gentile) that used to be far apart from one another. Christ broke down the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile and made them both one, thereby doing away with the basis for their former enmity.
  - Verse 15—the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross abolished the former enmity and took the law of commandments out of the way (Col. 2:14). The purpose of this was to form the one new man (body of Christ) and bring peace (reconcile) between those who used to be at enmity with each other.
  - Verse 16—it is here that the reconciliation spoken about in II Cor. 5:19 was accomplished. The world was reconciled to God through the fall of Israel (Rom. 11:15). Without the cross work of Christ, God could not form the one body of this dispensation. The enmity is slain through this work of Christ.
- II Corinthians 5:19-20—it is in the dispensational sense that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself. Rather than imputing sin and pouring out his wrath upon “humanity” his wrath was poured out on Christ upon the cross, thereby providing the basis upon which the church of this dispensation could be formed. In other words, at the cross God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself in the sense that God was moving on our behalf through the work of Christ to make our reconciliation unto him possible.

- Another word we need to define in this context is **IRRECONCILABLE**. According to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary*, the English word irreconcilable carries the following meanings: 1) Not to be recalled to amity, or a state of friendship and kindness; retaining enmity that cannot be appeased or subdued; as an irreconcilable enemy or faction. 2) That cannot be appeased or subdued; as irreconcilable enmity or hatred. 3) That cannot be made to agree or be consistent; incongruous; incompatible; as irreconcilable absurdities. It is followed by with or to. A man's conduct may be irreconcilable to or with his avowed principles.
- In human terms, people get divorced every day in this country citing **IRRECONCILABLE** differences as the reason for their separation. In other words, the forces that separate the two parties cannot be overcome thereby restoring the relationship to its former standing. Whenever there is infidelity in a marriage the question is often asked can two parties reconcile their differences. If one party desired to be reconciled, they may even take steps toward that outcome such as ending the adulterous relationship, seeking marriage counseling, rehab, or the like. However, just because they desire to be reconciled back to their spouse and may be taking the necessary steps for that to happen does not automatically bring out the desired reconciliation. The other party has to be willing to end the enmity and be reconciled.
- What Christ did upon the cross as revealed through the pen of the Apostle Paul is take care of God's **IRRECONCILABLE** differences with humanity. Christ paid the price for our reconciliation, but each human being needs to be willing to end their enmity with God and accept the provision that God has provided through Jesus Christ.
- Reconciliation should be regarded as a process according to God's purpose that involves two parties, not an accomplished fact for the whole world. It is God's desire to save all, but all will not be saved. The sense in which the whole world is reconciled to God is **POTENTIAL**, not **ACTUAL**. That is, Christ's death for all human beings made them **RECONCILABLE** to God: otherwise, Paul would not be calling on them to **BE RECONCILED TO GOD** (II Cor. 5:20). What the first Adam did by bringing legal condemnation to all humanity is reversed by what Christ, the "last Adam," accomplished--the **SAVEABILITY (POTENTIAL JUSTIFICATION)** of everyone. **ACTUAL SALVATION** and forgiveness of sins does not come automatically but by an act of faith in the finished work of Christ.
- This does not mean that our sins were **FORGIVEN** 2,000 years ago but that our sins were **PAID FOR** 2,000 years ago. It is still necessary for every man, individually, to be reconciled to God.