



Sunday, December 16, 2018

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The WEALTH of the Believer (1:1-3:21)

A. The Christian and His RICHES (1:3-23)

B. The Christian and His RECONCILIATION (2:1-22)

Dr. Jim Berg – The word *reconciliation* means that an exchange has taken place. The estranged parties have exchanged a previous relationship of animosity for a whole new relationship of friendship, kindness, peace, and good will. The new relationship is to be more than just an agreement “to get along from now on” or a mere adjustment or boundary-setting exercise. It is to bear all the hallmarks of the primal relationship of the believer with Christ when *“old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

1. God brings about a SAVING UNION (1-10)

God reconciles the sinner to Himself bringing about a saving union. Paul reminds the believer about his *past* to help him appreciate what he has in the *present* so that he will seek to be more effective in pursuing his *purpose* of walking in “*good works*.”

a. The Christian's **PAST PROBLEM—SIN** (1-3)

i. You were **DEAD** (1)

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your **God**, and your sins have hid **His** face from you, that **He** will not hear.

A "*transgression*" is stepping over a line whether willful or unintentional. It is to disobey God's commandments.

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all.

This word translated "*sins*" literally speaks of missing the mark. It implies our weakness of falling short of God's righteous standard of perfection.

ii. You were **DISOBEDIENT** (2)

Here in Eph 2:2-3 we see our past condition before being "*in Christ*."

This "*course*" or age is the contemporary moral atmosphere and philosophy that is ruled by the "*god of this world*" and dominates the culture in which we live.

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of **Christ, Who** is the image of **God**, should shine unto them.

iii. You were **DEPRAVED** (3a)

This word "*lust*" speaks of a passionate *longing* which in this case has a controlling dominance.

Galatians 3:22 But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of **Jesus Christ** might be given to them that believe.

iv. You were DOOMED (3b)

John 3:18-19 He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **19** And this is the condemnation [judgment], that Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than Light, because their deeds were evil.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

b. The Christian's PRESENT—SALVATION (4-6)

Consider the apostle Paul's words juxtaposed with the apostle John's speaking of us as children before and after salvation (Ephesians 2:1-3 & John 1:12). Notice how the "*children of disobedience*," who are "*children of wrath*" become "[children] son's of God."

i. You are a recipient of God's LOVE—LOVED (4)

This "*mercy*" is the rescue from a miserable, hopeless condition. It is not receiving the punishment that we deserve.

Titus 3:3-4 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. **4** But after that the kindness [gentleness] and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,



Our WORTHY WALK contains an honest understanding of our reconciliation to God. We were spiritually "*DEAD in our trespasses and sins*," DISOBEDIENT, DEPRAVED, and DOOMED being under the wrath of God. "*BUT GOD*"—He stepped in and now you have spiritual life being saved "*by grace through faith*" in the finished work of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Rejoice and live in "*His great love wherewith He loved us*."

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.



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What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF SIN***)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew your mind***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew your mind***)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (***Put ON CHRIST***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!