



Sunday, January 13, 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)

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*.”

- The Christian’s PAST PROBLEM—SIN (1-3)**
- The Christian’s PRESENT—SALVATION (4-6)**
- The Christian’s PURPOSE—SERVING (7-10)**

As God’s “*workmanship*” we have been “*created in Christ Jesus*” to live as a TROPHY of God’s IMMEASURABLE GRACE, enjoying TRANQUILITY because of God’s IMPECCABLE GIFT, walking as a TREASURE of God’s INFINITE GOODNESS.

2. God brings about a **SANCTIFYING UNITY** (11-22)

Our reconciliation to God is to bring about unity with others. God reconciles the Jews with the Gentiles bringing about *sanctifying unity*—a unity that is set apart from sin for God’s glory. Paul reminds the Gentile believer about his *past position* to help him appreciate the *peace* he has because of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Whereas he was separate from God, he is now reconciled to God where he enjoys the privilege of fellowship with God.

Alistair Begg – One of the evidences of God’s eternal purposes is to be seen in the absence of hostility, the presence of harmony, the breaking down of barriers and the building of bridges.

Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the [*clear and exact*] knowledge of the **Son of God**, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of **Christ**:

a. The Christian’s **PAST POSITION—SEPARATED** (11-13)

i. You were **SOCIALLY** Separated (11)

Paul illustrates the believer's past life by describing the Gentiles. Socially they were separated from the Jews. The unbeliever is also socially separated from God. They have no communication with Him and no way of worshipping Him outside of Christ.

ii. You were **SPIRITUALLY** Separated (12)

a) Separated without **CHRIST**

To be “*without Christ*” is to be in the state of condemnation (John 3:18; John 3:36) as the “*children of wrath*” (Ephesians 2:3).

John 3:18 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**.

b) Separated without **CITIZENSHIP**

c) Separated without the COVENANT PROMISES

d) Separated without HOPE

e) Separated without GOD

iii. You are SACRIFICIALLY SAVED (13)

John 10:16 “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear **My** voice; and there shall be one fold [*flock*], and one Shepherd.

It is through the “*blood of Christ*” that one’s sins are washed clean in salvation (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 5:9; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Colossians 1:13-14).

Romans 5:9 Much more then, being now justified by **His** blood, we shall be saved from wrath through **Him**.

Hebrews 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged [*cleansed*] with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission [*forgiveness*].



Our WORTHY WALK contains an honest understanding of our RECONCILIATION to *others*. The Christian’s *past* was darkened by hopelessness, without God. They were SEPARATED both socially and spiritually, “*BUT NOW in Christ Jesus, ye are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*” Through Christ’s SACRIFICE they have been SAVED.

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

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!