

The Commissioned Life Delivers the Gospel Message: “Be reconciled to God!”

2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NIV)

*Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that **one died for all**, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And **he died for all**, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was **raised again**.¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a **worldly point of view**. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the **new creation** has come: The old has gone, the new is here!¹⁸ **All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:** ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: **Be reconciled to God.** ²¹ God made him who had no sin to **be sin for us**, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

The Commissioned Life Declares This Message With Urgency: “Now is the day of salvation!”

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NIV)

*As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” I tell you, **now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.***

The Commissioned Life is the Messenger to Those Whom God Puts in Our Path: “...that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Isaiah 49:6

*“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, **that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.**”*

Digging Deeper

(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)

Open your group time with a personal (brief) story: Tell of a time when you had to be in a hurry for something important, but you were late and missed out! *(10 minutes)*

RECONCILIATION *(10 minutes)*

- Discuss again from last Sunday as well as this Sunday, the understanding of **reconciliation**.
- Discuss how this is ultimately a war between me and God.
- How can this be?
- What does this mean?
- What are the consequences for us?
 - We must grow in our understanding of sin and our war with the Holy God before we can fully grasp the meaning of reconciliation in Christ.

URGENCY

- Read **2 Corinthians 6:1-2** aloud as a group and discuss. Use several different translations to guide your conversation. *(10 minutes)*
- Discuss the concept and significance of the Creator of the Universe inserting himself in the confines of time and space for us. Why would he do this? *(10 minutes)*
- Why is there a need for urgency in his Church Body to bring a message to the world? *(20 minutes)*

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

(Discuss this briefly as a group, then take it home to work on it.) In Billy's message on Sunday, he laid out how to become aware of and pray for concentric circles of concern. Take some time to build your circles and then regularly pray for them.

