

More on Reconciliation

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
Bill Reiboldt

Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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In my hasty assemblage of my devotional thoughts from 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, I later realized that the context demands broader application than I had given it. I would like to more fully and correctly share some insights from this passage.

Surely the offer by God's grace and mercy of reconciliation is an unsurpassed theme within the pages of Scripture. It comes from God through Christ (v. 18); we learn of it from the "word of reconciliation", aka the gospel, and it requires action on our part to realize it (v. 20). This being said, why is Paul talking so much about something that had already been realized by the recipients of this letter?

Paul addresses this letter to "the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia" (2 Cor. 1:1). The church is made up of those who have been reconciled by having that which once separated them from God (their sins) forgiven, washed away (Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38; Eph. 5:26). Their baptism into Christ (Gal. 3:27, Rom. 6:3) led to "newness of life" (Rom. 6:4) and being made a "new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17). Is it possible that Paul, by his words in v. 20, "...we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God..." is telling them (and us) that the initial reconciliation that had been realized in the past does NOT guar-

antee a continued fellowship regardless of one's life? I think the context demands just that.

In the very next chapter, in verse one, Paul states, "... we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain." They had already experienced the goodness of God's grace when they became Christians and were added into His kingdom, but going back into the sin-filled lives that had once been theirs in the midst of a corrupt culture would only serve to negate the cleansing they had experienced. As Paul urges these brethren on to higher holiness in 7:1 he says, "...beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." These saints were in need of **more cleansing**—not by being re-baptized but by confession (1 John 1:7-9) and repentance (Heb. 10:26). They had access to the continued, powerful cleansing that the blood of Christ affords the penitent child of God.

Let us take note of Paul's admonitions and benefit from the letter to the saints in Corinth. These Christians in Corinth who had once enjoyed the sweetness of God's full fellowship were now in danger of throwing it all away by their bad choices—how sad. Reconciliation is freely offered through Christ, but can be dangerously discarded by our own neglect.

Tim Murray

His own people, eager to do what is good – Titus 2:14



Pam Babb, Betty Ball, Jack Brodie, Pete Conrow, Ed Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Louise Faules, Mary Jane Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Faye Haight, May Hill, Wilma Hill, Doris Jones, Guy Lewis, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Ron Naramore, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Margaret Wald, Ruth Ann Wilson, Treva Wolgammott, Velda Wood, Neosho Christian School and Honduras mission work.

- Wayne Douthitt will have knee surgery next Monday.
- Several teens and are at Horizons camp at Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee this week. Please keep these travelers in your prayers.
- Several Murrays will travel to Honduras for their work with Childhaven International next week. Please remember them.



every ONE counts! Remember to give an extra dollar every Sunday to help someone in need. Every "One" Counts! Thank you to

all who have contributed to this great ministry!

Men's Breakfast: Start the day off with good company and prayer with brothers in Christ this Thursday at 7:00 at Braum's!

Ladies, join us for a Bible-marking study at Amanda Flint's home this Thursday at 7 p.m. Bring a friend!

Our next fifth Sunday giving opportunity will be July 30. Please make prayerful, generous plans to help pay for our soon-to-open new fellowship building.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Who Is a God like You?*

(Micah 7:18-20, Danny Boggs)

P.M. *I Came Not to Call the Righteous,*

but Sinners (Mark 2:27, Danny Boggs)

Senior Saints will meet for lunch in the old fellowship room this Saturday at noon. You are invited!

The Tri-State Youth Series will be hosted by the West Union church of Christ this Sunday at 4:00. The van will leave the Hillcrest parking lot at 3:30.



Join us for a day of fellowship and fun **on the creek at the Cooks' campground Saturday, July 22.** Watch for details.

- Vacation Bible school begins in less than three weeks!
- Get a shirt at the welcome desk, and wear it to help advertise. Donate \$5 to help with the cost if possible.
- Take coloring sheets from the welcome desk, and return them to register kids.
- We still have a few jobs to fill. Contact Luke to see how you can help.

***“Live as people who are free,
not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,
but living as servants of God.
Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood.
Fear God. Honor the emperor.”***

1 Peter 2:16-17

ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, July 9

- AM Opening: Nolan Murray
- AM Closing: Chandler Marks
- PM Opening: Josh King
- PM Closing: Jonathan Keith

Scripture Reading Sunday, July 9

- Daniel 2:20-22, Karson Thomas
- #### Prayers Wednesday, July 12
- Opening: Tim Murray
 - Closing: David Fehring

RECORDS

	07-02-17	07-03-16
Bible Study	121	113
AM Worship	178	147
PM Worship	110	94
Wednesday	144	148
Contribution	\$6,859.51	\$7,874.01
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67