



New Covenant

Presbyterian Church

1. What is the background of Paul's address to the Corinthians in this passage? What do we glean from what Paul says in v. 12?

There were false apostles who were boasting about their eloquence and oratory skills and were intimating that Paul was not an apostle. This was a church that Paul had planted and so he was insisting that the members remember what he had taught them about the Gospel and that they would not judge things according to outward appearance and externals. This accounts for all that he says throughout the text about appearance and fleshly mindedness.

2. This passage explains the Gospel almost clearer than any other passage in the Scriptures. What is important about the audience to which Paul is preaching it?

Paul is preaching it to the church. B.B. Warfield remarked that it was as if Paul was standing in the marketplace and preaching inside the church to pagans. This teaches us that the Gospel cures all of the problems of our lives and in the church. It shows that believers need the Gospel.

3. What do we learn about ourselves from Paul's emphasis upon God's reconciling work in Christ?

We learn that we are enemies of God by nature. Men are not in a right relationship with God by nature. We are God's enemies and He is our enemy. We need to be reconciled.

4. What is important about the verbs in this passage? What do they teach us about the work of redemption?

God has already accomplished reconciliation through the death of His Son. All of the verbs intimate completed work: "has reconciled..."

5. What idea does the word "reconcile" carry with it? How is this seen in Paul's explanation of the Gospel in v. 21?

The word "reconciliation" carries with it the idea of "an exchange." The heart of the Gospel is substitution. Our sin was imputed to Christ. His righteousness is imputed to us.

6. Who initiates the work of reconciliation? What important statement does Paul make in v. 18?

God does. All we contribute to the work of saving reconciliation is our sin from which we need to be redeemed. God, in his everlasting love, initiated the work of redemption. Paul sums up all of redemptive history when he says, "All this is from God..."

7. What has God done to ensure the propagation of the Gospel?

He has appointed ministers to be ambassadors to call men to be reconciled to God. Our God is an Evangelistic God.

8. What does Paul say that God is doing when the Gospel is preached?

God is pleading with men through the preaching and urging of Gospel ministers. When the word and Gospel are faithfully and zealously proclaimed, Christ is speaking. See Ephesians 2:17 (Christ came and preached to the men and women in Ephesus when Paul went and preached to them. He was speaking through the preaching of the Gospel).