

2 Corinthians 5.16-6.2

Everlastingly New Newness

Many TIMES we HEAR PROMISE of Something NEW > Hopes Begin to RISE
 New YEAR, new PHONE, BOYFRIEND, JOB, new POLITICAL Promises
 Now things are Really Going to Change! Surely, NEW will be BETTER!

But, Before Long “NEW” is No Longer New!

Phone Cracks, Shoes Scuffed, Boyfriend Chump, Job Boring, Leaders Liars
 So, BURNED by Disappointments > Use word “New” with Lurking Doubts

STEP into 2 Corinthians 5 > Letter to Church in Corinth almost 2000 yrs ago
 AUTHOR: Apostle Paul Makes a PROMISE of Everlastingly New Newness

v. 18 Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation
 CENTER of Paul’s Formulation of Gospel is Concept of RECONCILIATION
 Word for RECONCILIATION appears 5 X’s in Various Forms in These VSS.

PAUL only BIBLICAL Theologian of Reconciliation > Romans, 1 & 2 Corinth
 Basic Meaning > “to COMPLETELY CHANGE” – RECONCILIATION

In Greek social and political spheres the term denoted a change in relations
 between individuals, groups and nations...in the religious arena it was used of
 relationships between gods and humans. Linda Belleville

1. Why do we Need Reconciliation?

We need RECONCILIATION because of ALIENATION > God and Others
 ALIENATION > Absence of TRUST and RESPECT between PEOPLE
 Broken MARRIAGES, LABOR Disputes, POLITICAL Gridlock, World WARS

CRAZY Copernicus > EARTH was NOT Center of UNIVERSE, but SUN
 Surprise, Surprise! Copernicus was CORRECT > COPERNICAN Revolution

Most DEADLY SERIOUS Alienation is in our RELATIONSHIP with GOD

v. 19 their trespasses // 6.1 not to receive the grace of God in vain

PRIMARY Purpose of 2 Cor > Paul calling Church back to LOVE & Serve God

Pure, Holy, Righteous > Even our Best Efforts are Impure, Unholy, Unrighteous

Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness. No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity... Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.

Isaiah 59.2-8

NOT a MINOR Misunderstanding – MUTINY, Tyranny, Radical Rebellion

HEART of ALIENATION in EVIL HEART of PEOPLE > Need SAVING

Man's RELIGIOUS Efforts MAY BE SINCERE but they FALL SHORT

“Sin is a clenched fist and its object is the face of God” Anonymous

Here CRAZY Paul tells Corinthians THEY are NOT Center of UNIVERSE

Points them to THE SON who DIED/ROSE Again for ALL who TRUST in HIM

Paul calling SELF-CENTERED Corinthians to Christo-Centric Revolution

C.S. Lewis tells STORY on HIMSELF before his own Christocentric Revolution

“What mattered most of all, was my deep-seated hatred of authority, my monstrous individualism and lawlessness. No word in my vocabulary expressed deeper hatred than the word ‘interference.’ But Christianity placed at the center what them seemed to me as a transcendental interferer.” C.S. Lewis

2. Who is the Reconciler?

Usually a 3rd Party is Needed to RECONCILE/MEDIATE Alienated Parties
 Marriage Counselor / Labor Negotiator / Secretary-General of United Nations

In nearly EVERY OTHER Religion > Duty of Worshipper to APPEASE God

BIBLE > OFFENDED Party INITIATES Action of RECONCILIATION

GOD is the MOVER of Reconciliation in EVERY ONE of these VERSES

Only God CAN Reconcile – Because Only God WANTS To – We DON'T

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”
 Romans 3.10-12

v. 18 All this is from God who through Christ reconciled us to himself...

It is not God who needs to be reconciled to human beings, but it is human beings who need to be reconciled to God; and it is not repentance, prayers or other good works on the part of human beings that bring about reconciliation between God and human beings, but it is by his grace that God reconciles human beings to himself.
 Seyoon Kim

God-in-Action on OUR BEHALF is God-in-Christ

WORD ‘for’ – Greek HYPER – Significant to EXPLAIN Death of Christ

v. 14 One died *for* all

v. 15 He died *for* all...him who died *for* them and was raised again

v. 20 We are ambassadors *for* Christ...we beseech you on behalf of Christ

v. 21 God made him...to be sin *for* us

REPRESENTATION and SUBSTITUTION > Jesus took OUR PLACE

DAVID defeats GOLIATH to bring LIBERATION / VICTORY for All ISRAEL

We're NOT Called to MAKE PEACE with GOD – He has Already DONE SO

WHO is the RECONCILER? TRUE and Living God who ALONE is WORTHY

God's Work of Reconciling World > Comes BEFORE Our Own New BIRTH

What GOD does FOR US precedes what GOD does IN US

Nothing is of ourselves, for remission of sins, and adoption, and unspeakable glory are given to us by Him...a new body, a new worship, and new promises and covenant and life and table and dress, and all things absolutely new...instead of a material temple a spiritual temple; instead of tables of stone, fleshly tables; instead of circumcision, baptism; instead of manna, the Lord's body; instead of water from a rock, blood from His side; instead of Moses' and Aaron's rod, the Cross; instead of promised land, the kingdom of heaven; instead of a thousand priests, one High Priest...all these things are of God by Christ, and His free gift.

Chrysostom

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him, all creatures here below

3. Way of Reconciliation

v. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Him who knew no sin, Him who was Righteousness-Itself. Chrysostom

Our SINS IMPUTED to Him/ His RIGHTEOUSNESS was IMPUTED to Us

Not JUST we get RIGHT Standing to DO Good Works > We Become Righteous

GIVEN the Full BENEFIT and STANDING of Righteousness of CHRIST

God acts Righteously because HE IS Righteous

WE can act Righteously because in X He has MADE us RIGHTEOUS

You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

1 John 3.5

By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh

Romans 8.3

NOT say Jesus BECAME a SINNER – Forever SINLESS, INNOCENT, PURE

Christ SO CLOSELY Identified with US that OUR SIN became HIS SIN

Jesus took ON our SKIN in his INCARNATION

Jesus took ON our SIN for Our SALVATION

ON Cross Jesus takes our SIN, Because of Cross we can have His Righteousness

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

1 Peter 3.18

4. Warmth of Reconciliation

v. 19 in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself

Sometimes we PRESENT Bridge DIAGRAMS or MATH Formula

Gives ABSTRACT, IMPERSONAL Presentation of Plan of SALVATION

DISTANT ANGRY Father who Needs to be PLACATED by BLOOD of SON

REBELLION of Man is MET and MATCHED by the LOVE of God in Christ

RECONCILIATION is Deeply PERSONAL for God

FATHER So LOVES World willing GIVES His ONLY SON

SON So Loves FATHER and His FLOCK he LAYS Down His LIFE for them

WELCOME Home for PRODIGALS to Full STATUS as Daughters & Sons

v. 16 From now on...

Paul's LIFE forever IMPACTED by LIFE-GIVING LOVE of God

v. 14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died

Saul of Tarsus met that TRANSCENDENTAL Interferer on DAMASCUS Road

FULL Understanding in Home of JUDAS on Straight St Downtown Damascus

NOTHING would be SAME Again for Paul or for WHOLE WORLD

DEATH/RESURRECTION of Jesus was Life Changing & WORLD-Changing!
 Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which
 the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Galatians 6.14

5. World-View Transformation of the Reconciled

v. 16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh.

MODERN Society judges PERSON on EXTERNAL APPEARANCES
 We FORM our ESTIMATE of Someone PURELY on HUMAN Standards
 Judge by Externals like Heritage, Intelligence, Wealth, and Social Status

ENEMIES of Paul claimed his Ministry had No SIZZLE or SHIZZLE
 No FLASH or FAN CLUBS --- Just a BORING BIBLE TEACHER!

Too many in Corinth Measured MINISTRY by EXTERNALS Not Exposition

Paul NOW SEES all things in Light of KNOWING Jesus > NEW Creation
 “FLESH” – NIV 48 different Words translate ONE Greek word ‘sarx’?
 MEANS that which is OLD, CORRUPTIBLE, and PASSING AWAY

As a STUDENT of GAMALIEL in Jerusalem > Paul may have HEARD Jesus
 Jerusalem NOT that Large > World of RELIGIOUS Leaders Not that BIG

Great Numbers followed Jesus the Popular RABBI and MIRACLE Worker
 Some of those People were in CROWD Shouting “Crucify, Crucify”

Saul the PHARISEE was Convinced Jesus was IMPOSTER, BLASPHEMER
 Saw His VIOLENT Death on CROSS as DESERVED: Messianic PRETENDER
 Being NAILED to a TREE was Clear PROOF that he was CURSED by GOD
 Saul Believed ANYONE who FOLLOWED Him should be STOMPED OUT!

v. 16 Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

Paul is not saying that we can no longer know Christ's flesh, but rather that we are not to judge Him after the flesh. John Calvin

NOW the Spirit has Revealed REAL Jesus to Us

Now we Understand Jesus is NOT a LUNATIC or a LIAR – He is LORD!

NEW Birth Totally UNINFLUENCED by Human STATUS or LACK of ANY

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3.28

Worldly DISTINCTIONS – Race, Social Status, Wealth, Title

NO LONGER Govern our POSITION in the BODY of Christ

Unity of Church reveals New RELATIONSHIP God has to WORLD in CHRIST

Our CRITERIA for EVALUATION has been Converted

Like Blind man who got 2nd touch from Jesus

Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Mark 8.25

6. World-wide Reconciliation

v. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

Paul been pointing to GENESIS as he writes 2 Corinthians

LIGHT shining Out of DARKNESS >> Spoken WORD that Creates New Life
By AGENCY of WORD of Resurrection > New World of RECONCILIATION

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2.10

When a NEW WORLD is BORN - A New WAY of LIVING Goes with IT

People have FIRST BABY – New Chapter Family Life Begins – Never SAME MOVE from Small DORM Room to BIG HOUSE you ENTER New WORLD NATION adopts NEW LAWS Citizens Different Perspective of DAILY LIFE Everything LOOKS Different, because Everything IS Different

That is what God will do – and what He has already begun doing.
In rare wondrous moments we're hit by a blast of this coming new.
God pops in and confirms that new is on the horizon.

v. 17 “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

Word for NEW = KAINOS – NEW, FRESHLY Made

NEW is so DIFFERENT from the OLD – It can NEVER PASS AWAY
One Day we'll be NEW PEOPLE in a NEW HEAVEN and NEW EARTH

The newness of God's new creation is not a newness that in the course of time palls and grows old and outmoded; it is a newness that is everlastingly new.

Philip E. Hughes

He'll keep His promise, “Behold, I am making all things new” Revelation 21.5

7. Waiting for Reconciliation

v. 17 The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

OLD is PASSING Away...Not yet FINISHED

HONEST Admission that OLD has NOT GONE AWAY Yet

EMPHASIS is on the REALITY and WONDER of the NEW that has BEGUN

The expression ‘in Christ’ sums up briefly and profoundly the inexhaustible significance of man's redemption. It speaks of security in Him who has Himself borne in His own body the judgment of God against our sin; it speaks of

acceptance in Him with whom alone God is well pleased; it speaks of assurance for the future in Him who is the Resurrection and the Life; it speaks of the inheritance of glory in Him who, as the only-begotten Son, is the sole heir of God; it speaks of participation in the divine nature of Him who is the everlasting Word; it speaks of knowing the truth, and being free in the truth, in Him who Himself is the Truth. All this, and very much more than can ever be expressed in human language, is meant by being ‘in Christ.’ Philip E. Hughes

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4.16-18

The full force of the ‘new creation’ will not be experienced until the end of history, at the return of Jesus in glory...everyone will continue to undergo, in varying degrees, difficulty and hardship – including those in whom the new creation has begun...then the new creation, which to this point has been spiritual and psychological will become physical and visible. Paul Barnett

8. Witnesses of Reconciliation

v. 18 Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

RECONCILIATION Needs PROCLAMATION

ONLY God can Accomplish R. > Paul’s BURDEN is to Bring this Message

v. 20 we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.

Word transl Ambassadors LIT. “OLDER or ELDEST” > Grey Haired Statesman

REPRESENTS the Nation – SPEAKS for King – On FOREIGN Mission

RESPONSIBLE to Faithfully Communicate EXACT Message of the KING

Xtians are AMBASSADORS to Declare what God has ACCOMPLISHED

New WORLD has a New KING and the New King has AMBASSADORS

Not our CHANCE to Get Right with God > Declaration He has MADE us Right

Not a call to DO SOMETHING but Good News that he has already DONE ALL

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Isaiah 52.7,8

Paul – like ISAIAH Speaks for GOD AND God speaks THROUGH Paul

Paul DECLARED Good News that ISAIAH only Saw from DISTANCE

JESUS – Finished Work – Good News – God Reigns – Publishes Salvation

v. 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

This is ONE THING World Desperately NEEDS > RIGHT with GOD & MAN

More Pressing than Poverty – Urgent than Economy – Eternal than Environment

People MADE by God & LOVED by God now INVITED to be SAVED by God

Preach the Gospel at all times. USING Words is ALWAYS Necessary.

But we MUST Preach! Use Words > Faith comes by HEARING Word of Christ

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1.18

The great symphony of reconciliation composed on Calvary needed to be copied out into orchestral parts for all the world to play. And that’s where Paul and the other apostles come in...Something new *has* happened; something new *must* happen. The world has never before seen a ministry of reconciliation; it has never before heard a message of reconciliation.

Tom Wright

v. 20 We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

9. Warning of Reconciliation

Wrath of GOD can be Escaped Only by Reconciliation

v. 1 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

“in vain” – HEAR Gospel WITHOUT GRACE and GRATITUDE

Corinthians CANNOT be NEW Creation and REJECT Paul’s MINISTRY

As APOSTLE he is God’s AMBASSADOR of RECONCILIATION

Having New LIFE in Heaven is SEEN NOW by our NEW LIFE on EARTH

Those who begin by trusting Christ, but then fall away to another message show that their initial reception of God’s grace, though it may have appeared genuine at the time, was not real.

Scott Hafemann

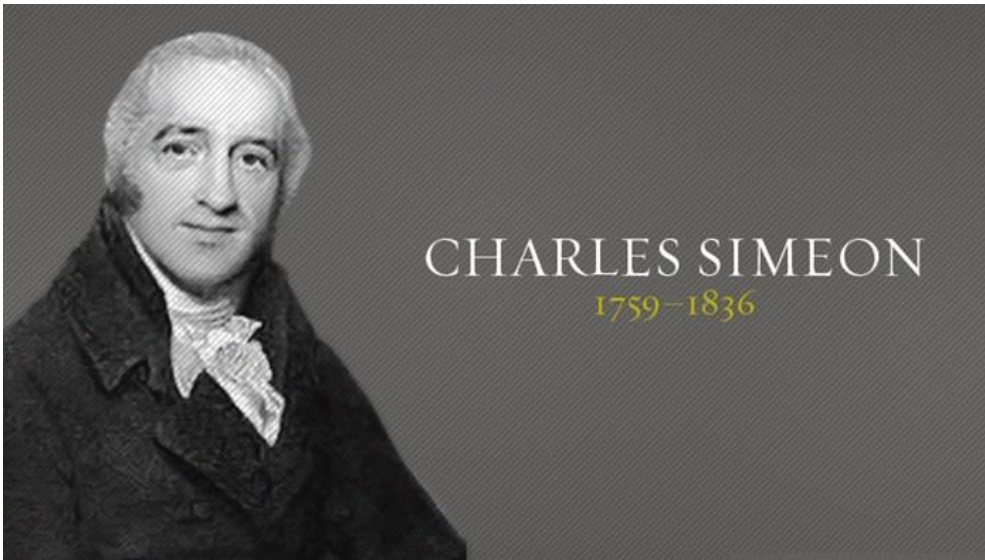
v. 2 For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

URGENCY of our RESPONSE seen in Repeating of word NOW

NOW there is NEW CREATION >> Come NOW and BE RECONCILED

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Malachi 3.3,4

Personal TRANSFORMATION by Spirit is Evidence of New Creation



Charles SIMEON preached over 50 years in Holy TRINITY Church, Cambridge
 First 10 years MEMBERS So Upset with CLEAR GOSPEL Preaching
 LOCKED Pew BOXES so Nobody could SIT and Listen to SIMEON
 HUNGRY SOULS stood for 10 years to HEAR Beloved Pastor Preach CHRIST
 Simeon influenced Generation – Evangelical Renewal to Church > Missions
 21 VOLUMES of his LIFETIME of Sermons still READ with Profit TODAY

“After having urged his hearers to accept the proffered mercy, he reminded those present to whom he had preached Christ for more than thirty years, but they continued indifferent to the Saviour’s love; and pursuing this train of expostulation for some time, he at length became quite overpowered by his feeling, and he sank down in the pulpit and burst into a flood of tears.”

From Obituary of Charles Simeon, November 1836

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 Isaiah 43.19

Everlastingly New Newness

“Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all”

Isaac Watts, ‘When I Survey the Wondrous Cross’

2 Corinthians 5.¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 6.¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.