

## RECONCILIATION THROUGH THE BLOOD

### Romans 3:24-25

**Introduction:** *"...God hath set forth Jesus as a reconciliation through faith in His blood..."* It is of great importance that the believer who has already received reconciliation, should obtain a deeper and more spiritual conception of its meaning and blessedness. If the power of the blood in "redemption" is rooted in "reconciliation" than a fuller knowledge of what "reconciliation" is, is the surest way to obtain a fuller experience of the power of the blood.

### I. SIN, MADE RECONCILIATION NECESSARY

1. In all the work of Christ and above all in reconciliation, God's object is the removal and destruction of sin. We want to understand what there is in sin that needs reconciliation and how reconciliation renders sin powerless. Then faith will have something to take hold of and the experience of that blessing is made possible.
2. Sin has a two effect. It has had an effect on God as well as on man. We usually emphasize its effect on man, but the effect it has exercised on God is more terrible and serious. It is because of its effect on God that sin has its power over us.
  - God could not overlook sin. It is His unalterable law that sin must bring forth sorrow and death. When man fell into sin, he by that law of God, was brought under the power of sin. So it is with the law of God that "redemption" must begin, for if sin is powerless against God, and the law of God gives sin no authority over us, then its power over us is destroyed.
  - What then is the effect of sin upon God? In His divine nature, He ever remains unchanged and unchangeable, but in His relationship and bearing toward man, an entire change has taken place. Sin is disobedience, a contempt of the authority of God. It seeks to rob God of His honor as God and Lord.
  - While it was God's desire to continue in love and friendship with man, sin has compelled Him to become an opponent. Sin has compelled God to pour out upon man His wrath, curse and punishment, instead of His love.
3. Man is guilty before God. Guilt is debt. (All of us know what debt is) It is something that one person can demand from another, a claim which must be met and settled. When sin is committed its after effects may not be noticed but guilt remains. The sinner is guilty.
  - We often think that the great question for us is how we can be delivered from the indwelling power of sin, but that is a question of less importance than "how can we be delivered from the guilt" which is heaped up before God? Can the guilt of sin be removed? Can the effect of sin upon God, in awakening His wrath, be removed? Can sin be blotted out before God?
  - If these things can be done, the power of sin will be broken in us also. It is only through reconciliation that the guilt of sin can be removed.
  - The word "reconciliation" actually means "to cover." In Israel God revealed a reconciliation which could so truly cover and remove the guilt of sin, that the original relationship between God and man can be entirely restored. This is what true reconciliation must do. It must so remove the guilt of sin, that is the effect of sin on God, that man can draw near to God, in the assurance that there is not any longer the least guilt resting on him to keep him away from God.

## II. THE HOLINESS OF GOD FORE-ORDAINED RECONCILIATION

1. God's holiness is His infinite, glorious perfection, which leads Him always to desire what is good in others as well as in Himself.
  - In His holiness both the love and wrath of God are united. His LOVE which bestows itself, His WRATH which according to the divine law of righteousness, casts out and consumes what is evil.
  - It is as the Holy One that God ordained reconciliation in Israel and took up His abode on the Mercy Seat.
  - It is the Holy One that He, in expectation of New Testament times said so often, "*...I am thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel...*"
  - It is the Holy One that God wrought out His counsel of reconciliation in Jesus Christ.
2. We have seen that reconciliation means "covering". It means something else has taken the place where sin was established, so that sin can no longer be seen by God.
  - Reconciliation for sin can take place only by satisfaction. Satisfaction is reconciliation. As satisfaction is through a substitute, sin can be punished and the sinner saved.
    - This was set forth in the Old Testament laws of the offerings. A clean beast took the place of a guilty man. His sin was laid, by confession, on the head of the victim, which bore the punishment by surrendering its life unto death. Then the blood, representing a clean life that now through the bearing of punishment is free from guilt, can be brought into God's presence.
      - The blood or life of the beast that has borne the punishment in place of the sinner. The blood made reconciliation and covered the sinner and his sin, because it had taken his place and atoned for his sin.
    - THERE WAS RECONCILIATION IN THE BLOOD. However, not a reality. The blood of cattle or of goats could never take away sin. It was only a shadow, a picture of the real reconciliation.
  - Blood of a totally different character was necessary for an effectual covering of guilt. According to the counsel of the Holy God, nothing less than the blood of God's own Son could bring about reconciliation. Righteousness demanded it, love offered it. "*...Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God hath set forth for a reconciliation through faith in His blood...*"

## III. THE BLOOD THAT WROUGHT RECONCILIATION

1. Reconciliation must be the satisfaction of the demands of God's holy law and Jesus accomplished that by a willing and perfect obedience, He fulfilled the law under which He placed Himself.
  - In the same spirit of complete surrender to the will of the Father, He bore the curse which the law had pronounced against sin.
  - As head of mankind through creation, as their representative in the Covenant, He became their surety.
  - Above all, we must never forget that He was/is God. This bestowed a divine power on Him, to unite Himself with His creatures and to take them up into Himself.
    - It made His blood such a real reconciliation, such a perfect covering of sin, that the holiness of God no longer beholds it (sin).

2. What does all this mean? The awful effect of sin on God, of the terrible change which took place in heaven through sin has been seen. Instead of favor and friendship and blessing and the life of God from Heaven, man had nothing to look for except wrath, and curse and death and perdition.
  - But now see! The blood of Jesus, God's Son has been shed, atonement for sin has been made, peace is restored. A change has taken place again, as real and widespread as that which sin had brought about.
  - The righteousness of God no longer terrifies man. It meets him as a friend, with an offer of complete justification.
  - The reconciliation through the blood of Jesus has covered his sins. They appear no longer in God's sight.

#### IV. THE PARDON WHICH COMES FROM RECONCILIATION

1. The blood of Jesus has made reconciliation and covered it, and that as a result of this wonderful change which has taken place in the heavenly realms.
2. It is in the pardon of sin that all this takes place.
  - God has offered a perfect acquittal from all our sin and guilt because reconciliation has been made for sin. We can now be reconciled to Him. *"...God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them..." "...I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions and as a cloud thy sins..." "...Thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back..." "...Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea..." "...The iniquity of Israel shall be sought for and there shall be none and the sins of Judah and they shall not be found, for I will pardon them..."* (Isaiah 46:22; 38:17; Micah 7:19; Jeremiah 1:20)
  - This is what the New Testament calls justification: *"...being justified freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God hath set forth as a reconciliation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness..that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus..."* (Romans 3:23-26)

#### CONCLUSION:

1. So perfect is the reconciliation and so really has sin been covered and blotted out that he who believes in Jesus Christ is looked upon and treated by God as entirely righteous.
2. The penitent sinner who turns from his/her sins to God needs only faith in that blood.
3. The precious blood has been shed, reconciliation is complete and the message comes to YOU, *"...Be Ye Reconciled to God..."*
4. You who have not yet obtained forgiveness of your sins, does not this word come to you as an urgent call to faith in His blood?

(Preached by my father in 1969)