



Today's Message

Date: February 24, 2019
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Be Reconciled to God***

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:16–6:2 (ESV)

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.

^{6:1}Working 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.

Introduction: In this passage, Paul explains what it looks like when the love of Christ “controls” us and, thus, we live only for him (cf. 5:14-15). His worldview had undergone a radical transformation so that he no longer viewed Christ—or anything

else—from a worldly outlook. Being united with Christ changed everything. He further explained that God does this so that those who believe will serve as Christ’s ambassadors, entrusted with the message of reconciliation.

Today’s take-home truth: We are transformed by God’s initiative and design to serve his mission of reconciliation.

I. We are transformed . . . 16-17

- A. God gives us a new perspective . . . 16
- B. that comes from a new nature. 17

II. by God’s initiative and design . . . 18-19

- A. He acted through Christ, to provide the *means* of reconciliation. 18a, 19a
- B. He continues to act through us, to proclaim the *message* of reconciliation.

III. to serve his mission of reconciliation. 5:20-6:2

- A. We represent God. 20
- B. We proclaim the work of Christ. 21
- C. We serve with a sense of urgency. 6:1-2