

## Reconciliation By Trey Sullins

Job was a man who suffered much. He lost nearly everything except for his life. With all of this loss, Job began to question why all these things happened to him and perceived that he had been separated from God. In Job 9:33, Job made the statement “Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.” Job thought that something had caused God to do these things to him and longed for someone to come in between him and God and bring them back together. What Job desired was someone to bring about reconciliation between himself and God. Reconciliation is an important aspect of being a Christian because without it we would never be Christians!

What is reconciliation? Simply put it is the answer to enmity with God. James 4:4 says, “Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?” Notice God’s strictness in the fact that you cannot be friends with the world and friends with God at the same time. Romans 3:23 says “for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” When you put these two together you find out that everyone at one point or another is at enmity with God and needs to be reconciled to Him. The word reconciliation is made of two parts. The prefix “re” means again. “Conciliate” means to bring together or make friends. Therefore, when you put them together reconcile means to bring two things back together. Because enmity makes us enemies of God then reconciliation is the process by which we cease to be enemies of God. One amazing thing about God is He offered this reconciliation even though He w were still enemies. This reconciliation not only removes the separation and ends the opposition that we have with God, but it also goes even beyond that to bring us to peace with Him (Colossians 1:20).

Who needs reconciliation? We have already looked at Romans 3:23 which reveals to us this answer. If all have sinned and fallen short, then all need to be reconciled in order to be brought back to God. This means that every single soul before and after Jesus has need reconciliation because every soul has sinned. Why is it so necessary? Consider the opposing choice: remaining an enemy with God. Genesis 19:24 God rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah and overthrew the cities of the plains. Again in 2 Thessalonians 1:8 the Bible says, “in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Being an enemy of God means that you will receive the wrath of God; Therefore, reconciliation is the way to avoid this destruction and have harmony with God (Ephesians 2:13).

How does reconciliation happen? Ephesians 2:9 states that our salvation is not of works meaning that we cannot possibly do enough to have earned salvation. How can we be reconciled then? First, God’s mercy allows us an opportunity to be reconciled because He doesn’t destroy us immediately for our sins. Then by God’s grace He sent Jesus Christ to the earth to die for us that we might have a perfect sacrifice for our sins. Jesus acts as the mediator between humans and God. “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” is found in 1 Timothy 2:5 and reveals exactly who this mediator is. The word “mediator” means one who intervenes between two parties for the purpose of restoring them. Jesus is the perfect Mediator because He knows both sides perfectly. He knows the heavenly side because He is God (John 10:30). He knows the earthly side because He came to this earth as a man and saw the struggles we face yet never gave in to

temptations (John 1:1-4; Hebrews 4:15). Praise be to God that His plan included giving us a perfect Mediator to bring us to perfection!

While Job and other searched for a way to be reconciled, we have been given a clear and simple path to it. Reconciliation is what we need to be brought back to God. It is needed for all mankind to be freed from our enmity with God. It works through the grace and mercy of God and the work of our mediator Jesus Christ. Praise be to God for our opportunity to brought back together and to be His children (1 John 5:1).