

A Christmas Carol Series
Week 1 outline 11/26/23
2 Cor 5:14-21
Matt Vaught

GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED

I. Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

A. The Background

- written in 1739
- By Charles Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist church
- He wrote 6500 hymns
- George Whitfield applied the lyrics to the melody we now know

B. The Message

Vs1: Reconciliation has Come!

*Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.*

Vs 2: How did Reconciliation Come?

*Offspring of the virgins womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;
Hail, the incarnate Deity:
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!*

Vs 3: What has Reconciliation Done?

*Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the son of earth,
Born to give them second birth.*

II. The Message Behind the Lyrics: A Message of Reconciliation (2 Cor 5:14-21)

A. What is Reconciliation and Why Do We Need It? (Vs 18-21)

1. The Need: Sin makes us "out of balance"
 - a. Sin is us missing the mark, choosing our own way rather than God's
 - b. Sin's penalty is death
 - b. We all have the condition, and what we owe we cannot pay
 - c. Our sin nature results in separation from God
2. The Solution: the Good News of the Gospel (vs 21)
 - Reconciliation between us and God is made possible...
 - by God -vs 18
 - through Christ -vs 18
 - One dying for all -vs14
3. The Result: In Christ we are New Creations! (Vs 16)
 - that in him we are made righteous -vs21

B. Who is Reconciliation For, and How Do We Receive it? (Vs 18-20)

1. Reconciliation is Personal - *"from God who reconciled us"* -vs 18
-it's offered to US
2. Reconciliation is Extensive - *"that God was reconciling the world to himself"* -vs19
-it's available for ALL
3. Reconciliation is Exclusive - *"we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God"* - vs20
-it's received by FAITH

C. What does it Mean and How Does it Change How We Live?

"And he has committed [entrusted] to us the message of reconciliation" -vs 19

Reconciliation Means We Live...

1. Changed by His Spirit (vs 17)

- He changes our very nature
- Ministers of Reconciliation are new creations in Christ

2. Called to His Point of View (vs16)

- He changes our perspective
- Ministers of Reconciliation live as if that person was worth Jesus dying for

3. Committed to His Lordship (vs 15)

- He changes our priorities
- Ministers of Reconciliation live with Christ as Lord of our lives

4. Convinced of His Gospel (vs 14b)

- He changes our purpose
- Ministers of Reconciliation live convinced that Jesus' death on the Cross was final and complete. Nothing needs to, our can be added to it. His grace is sufficient.

5. Compelled by His Love (vs 14a)

- He changes our hearts
- Ministers of Reconciliation live compelled by the love of Christ.

LIFEgroup Questions:

Does Christ's love compel you...

-What else tends to control your heart and behavior?

Has His Gospel convinced you...

-How are you tempted to think there's something more you must do to add to it?

Is His Lordship one you have committed to...

-Where might you still hold on to control and want to call your own shots?

Does His point of view shape you...

-When do you tend to view others by the standards of everyone else in the world?

Has His finished work changed you...

-or have you not yet chosen to be reconciled to God?