

## RECONCILED TO GOD

(2 Cor 5:18 KJV) And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (2 Cor 5:19 KJV) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (2 Cor 5:20 KJV) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

### 1. WE HAVE BEEN ALIENATED FROM GOD.

1. ***In the day you eat.*** (Gen 2:17 KJV) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
2. (Eph 4:18 KJV) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:
3. (Eph 2:1 KJV) And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: (Eph 2:2 KJV) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: (Eph 2:3 KJV) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

### 2. BUT GOD HAS RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH JESUS.

1. (Rom 5:12 KJV) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
2. (Rom 5:15 KJV) But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.
3. (Eph 2:4 KJV) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, (Eph 2:5 KJV) Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
4. (Col 1:21 KJV) And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

### 3. WHEN GOD SEEMS TO PAY US NO MIND.

1. ***The Lord's arm is not shortened.*** (Isa 59:1 KJV) Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
2. ***Your sins have separated you from God.*** (Isa 59:2 KJV) But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
3. ***Cry aloud.*** (Isa 58:1 KJV) Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.
4. ***Why God hasn't heard.***
  1. (Isa 58:2 KJV) Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a

nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.

2. (Isa 58:3 KJV) Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. (Isa 58:4 KJV) Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

5. ***Fasting as a religious activity.***

1. Fasting was one of the most religious activities of the Pharisees.
2. (Mat 6:16 KJV) Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.
3. (Luke 18:12 KJV) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

6. ***Unless your religion exceeds that of the Pharisees.*** (Mat 5:20 KJV) For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

7. ***Some of the religious activities of the Pharisees.***

1. Associating with sinners. (Mat 9:11 KJV) And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? (Mat 9:12 KJV) But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.
2. Mercy and not sacrifice. (Mat 9:13 KJV) But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.
3. Place heavy burdens upon the people. (Mat 23:1 KJV) Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, (Mat 23:2 KJV) Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: (Mat 23:3 KJV) All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. (Mat 23:4 KJV) For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.
4. Want to be seen of men. (Mat 23:5 KJV) But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, (Mat 23:6 KJV) And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, (Mat 23:7 KJV) And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

8. ***Woe unto you scribes and Pharisees!***

1. (Mat 23:13 KJV) But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
2. (Mat 23:14 KJV) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye

shall receive the greater damnation.

3. (Mat 23:15 KJV) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
4. (Mat 23:23 KJV) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.
5. (Mat 23:25 KJV) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.
6. (Mat 23:27 KJV) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.
7. (Mat 23:29 KJV) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, (Mat 23:30 KJV) And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. (Mat 23:31 KJV) Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. (Mat 23:32 KJV) Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. (Mat 23:33 KJV) Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

#### 4. THE FAST OF THE LORD.

##### 1. *Humility.*

1. A chosen fast. (Isa 58:5 KJV) Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?
2. Thank God I'm not like that sinner. (Luke 18:11 KJV) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. (Luke 18:12 KJV) I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. (Luke 18:13 KJV) And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. (Luke 18:14 KJV) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
3. God gives grace to the humble.
  1. (1 Pet 5:5 KJV) Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

2. (Mat 23:12 KJV) And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
  2. **Breaking the yoke.** (Isa 58:6 KJV) Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?
  3. **Feeding the hungry.** (Isa 58:7 KJV) Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?
5. GOD=S REWARDS.
1. (Isa 58:8 KJV) Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and
  2. thine health shall spring forth speedily; and
  3. thy righteousness shall go before thee;
  4. the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward (rear guard).
  5. (Isa 58:9 KJV) Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.
  6. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; (Isa 58:10 KJV) And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul;
    1. then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and
    2. thy darkness be as the noon day:
    3. (Isa 58:11 KJV) And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.
6. RESTORERS.
1. (Isa 58:12 KJV) And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places:
  2. thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and
  3. thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.