

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 “BE YE RECONCILED!”

- **Two key words in this section of Scripture:**

- **To impute (v19)**

im•pute \im-'pyüt\ *transitive verb* \ **im•put•ed; im•put•ing**

[Middle English *inputen*, from Latin *imputare*, from *in-* + *putare* to consider] (14th century)

1 : to lay the responsibility or blame for often falsely or unjustly

2 : **to credit to a person or a cause** : ATTRIBUTE our vices as well as our virtues have been *imputed* to bodily derangement —B. N. Cardozo

synonymy see ASCRIBE ¹

- **Impute:** to put to one's account, a credit

- Depositing money in your bank account, a credit to your account

Psalm 32:1-2

1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute (*credit, attribute, add to his account*) iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Romans 4:1-8

1 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?

2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has *something* to boast about, but not before God.

3 For what does the Scripture say? “*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*”

4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works:

7 “*Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered;*

8*Blessed is the man to whom the LORD shall not impute sin.*”

- **To reconcile (5X in vs. 18-20)**

- **To Reconcile:** *to make friendly again; to make consistent; to make content.*

- The basic meaning of the word *reconcile* is “**to change thoroughly.**” It refers to a changed relationship between God and the lost world. ²

rec•on•cile \re-kən-sīl\ *verb*; **rec•on•ciled; rec•on•cil•ing**

[Middle English, from Middle French or Latin; Middle French *reconcilier*, from Latin *reconciliare*, from *re-* + *conciliare* to conciliate] (14th century)

1 a : to restore to friendship or harmony; *reconciled* the factions

b : SETTLE, RESOLVE; *reconcile* differences

2 : to make consistent or congruous; *reconcile* an ideal with reality

1 \ lə\ abut \ ɪ\ kitten, French table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar\ə\ out \ch\ chin \əl\ bet \əl\ easy \g\ go \il\ hit \il\ ice \j\ job\j\ sing \əl\ go \əl\ law \əl\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \əl\ loot \əl\ foot\y\ yet \zh\ vision \ə, ʰ, ʰ, œ, œ, ue, ue, ʰ\ see Pronunciation Symbols

¹Merriam-Webster, I. (1996, c1993). *Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary*. Includes index. (10th ed.). Springfield, Mass., U.S.A.: Merriam-Webster.

²Wiersbe, W. W. (1996, c1989). *The Bible exposition commentary*. "An exposition of the New Testament comprising the entire 'BE' series"--Jkt. (2 Co 5:18). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

3 : to cause to submit to or accept something unpleasant;
was *reconciled* to hardship

4 a : to check (a financial account) against another for accuracy
b : to account for

Reconcile:

- **Your wristwatch** with the “standard”
- **Your bank** account with the “standard”
- **Your heart** with the “standard”

- **Jesus made reconciliation to God possible:**

Romans 5:6-11

6 For **when we were still without strength**, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still sinners**, Christ died for us.

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

10 For if **when we were enemies** **we were reconciled to God** through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

- **We are commanded to be reconciled to all men – to pursue reconciliation.**
Galatians 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual **restore** such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.² **Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.**

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the **peacemakers**, For they shall be called sons of God.

18 Now all things *are* of God, who has **reconciled** us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of **reconciliation**,

19 that is, that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not **imputing** their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of **reconciliation**.

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled to God**.

- The point made by Paul here is that God needs no reconciliation, but is engaged in the great business of reconciling us to himself. This has to be done on God's terms and is made possible through (*δια* [*dia*]) Christ. ³

³Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. (2 Co 5:18). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

- The task of winning the unreconciled to God is committed to us. It is a high and holy one, but supremely difficult, because the offending party (the guilty) is the hardest to win over. We must be loyal to God and yet win sinful men to him. ⁴

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- **If God gave His only begotten Son – any other article of His Kingdom would certainly seem of lesser value and would certainly also be given.**
- **Reconciling: (making peace)**
 - **Us to Him**
 - **The World to Himself**

Colossians 1:20-22

20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross.**

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, **yet now He has reconciled**

22 in the body of His flesh through death, **to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—**

21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.**

⁴Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. (2 Co 5:18). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.