

# CHURCH IN REGINA

2 Cor. 4:1 "Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart."

## HWMR Week 2—The Factor of Closely Following the Completed Vision of the Age through the Ministry of the Age

### The Ministry of Reconciliation—Two Steps

Paul's word in verse 20 about being reconciled to God is not directed to sinners; it is directed to the believers in Corinth. These believers had already been reconciled to God partially. However, they had not been fully reconciled to Him. It would not be true to say that the Corinthian believers had not been reconciled to God at all. In 1 Corinthians chapter one Paul refers to them as saints, as those who had been called by God into the fellowship of His Son. Therefore, they surely had been reconciled to God to some degree. Perhaps they had been halfway reconciled to Him.

The books of 1 and 2 Corinthians show that the believers at Corinth, after being reconciled to God partially, still lived in the flesh, in the outward man. Between them and God there was the separating veil of the flesh, of the natural man. This veil corresponds to the **veil inside the tabernacle**, the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, not to the veil at the entrance to the Holy Place. The Corinthian believers may have been in the Holy Place, but they were not in the Holy of Holies. This means they were still separated from the place where God is. Therefore, they had not been reconciled to God in full.

In verse 19 it is the world that is to be reconciled to God. In verse 20 it is the believers, those who have already been reconciled to God, who are to be reconciled to Him further. This clearly indicates that **there are two steps for people to be fully reconciled to God**. The **first step** is **as sinners to be reconciled to God from sin**. For this purpose *Christ died for our sins* (1 Cor. 15:3) *that they may be forgiven by God*. This is the **objective aspect of Christ's death**. In this aspect He bore our sins on the cross that God might judge them upon Him for us. The **second step** is **as believers living in the natural life to be reconciled to God from the flesh**. For this purpose *Christ died for us—the persons—that we may live to Him in resurrection life* (2 Cor. 5:14-15). This is the **subjective aspect of Christ's death**. In this aspect for us He was made sin to be judged and done away with by God that we may become the righteousness of God in Him. By the two aspects of His death He has fully reconciled God's chosen people to God.

These two steps of reconciliation are clearly portrayed by the **two veils** of the tabernacle. The first veil is called **the screen** (Exo. 26:36, lit.). A sinner was brought to God through the reconciliation of the atoning blood to enter into the Holy Place by passing this screen. This typifies the first step of reconciliation. The **second veil** (Exo. 26:31-35; Heb. 9:3) still separated him from God Who is in the Holy of Holies. This veil needed to be rent that he might be brought to God in the Holy of Holies. This is the second step of reconciliation. The Corinthian believers had been reconciled to God, for they had passed through the first veil and had entered into the Holy Place. But they still lived in the flesh. They needed to pass the second veil, which has already been rent (Matt. 27:51; Heb. 10:20), to enter into the Holy of Holies to live with God in their spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). The goal of this Epistle is to bring them here that they may be persons in the spirit (1 Cor. 2:14), in the Holy of Holies. This is what the apostle means by saying, "Be reconciled to God."

### Church Meetings:

#### Lord's Table Meeting

Lord's Day  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

#### Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays  
7:00 - 8:00 PM

#### College Meeting

Fridays  
7:00 - 8:30 PM

#### Small Group Meeting

Fridays  
7:00 - 8:30 PM

#### Young Peoples' Meeting

Saturdays  
7:00 - 8:30 PM

### Conferences & Trainings:

#### October International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones

October 8-10, 2021

#### International Thanksgiving Weekend Conference

November 25-28, 2021

#### Winter Training

December 20-25, 2021

### Contact Information:

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## NEW LANGUAGE

Christ's death  
abolished  
the law of  
commandments  
in ordinances  
and broke down the  
middle wall  
of partition.

## The Ultimate Consummation of God's Full Salvation

Verse 21, the last verse of chapter five, says, "Him Who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf, that we might become God's righteousness in Him." Here we have the **ultimate consummation of God's salvation—the righteousness of God.**

We must remember that **the new covenant ministry** is a **ministry of the Spirit and of righteousness.** This ministry imparts the Spirit of life into the believers. This issues in a state, a condition, that is called righteousness. Before we were saved, we were in a condition that was altogether condemned by God. Nothing was right, and God could by no means justify the condition we were in. But after we were saved, we were brought into a state where we could be justified by God. This is righteousness. However, if we are honest, we shall admit that, on the one hand, we are in a righteous condition, but, on the other hand, certain things related to our living still are not right. These things may not be comparable to the gross sin that may have been in our living before we were saved. Nevertheless, there are matters which are not right. In particular, there is still the separation between us and God caused by our natural man, our self...

In 5:17-21 we see three matters: the new creation, full reconciliation, and God's righteousness. Why do we say that this righteousness is the ultimate consummation of God's salvation? This claim is based on 2 Peter 3:13, which speaks of righteousness dwelling in the new heaven and new earth. **The fact that righteousness will dwell in the new heaven and new earth indicates that everything will be brought back to God in full.** Everything will be headed up and set in good order. Nothing will be wrong, and nothing will be out of order. Everything in the new heaven and the new earth will be right and satisfactory to God. God will be able to look at the entire universe and justify everything.

Have you been saved and brought into Christ? Are you now in Christ? If you can meet these conditions, you are a new creation. But even though you may have the assurance to say that you are a new creation in Christ, you may not have the boldness to declare that you are the righteousness of God. The reason you lack this boldness is that you are like a butterfly that has not fully emerged from its cocoon. Only when our "cocoon" has been fully done away can we say that we are God's righteousness. Until then, we can say that we are only partially the righteousness of God. **We need the cross to do a further work on us** so that the remainder of our cocoon may be consumed. Eventually, at the latest **in the New Jerusalem, we shall fully be God's righteousness.** Then God will be able to boast to His enemy, Satan, that everything in the New Jerusalem is righteousness, that nothing is wrong or defective, that everything is satisfactory to God. Therefore, God will be able to justify everything in the New Jerusalem. This is the righteousness which is the consummation of the ministry of the new covenant.

## Becoming the Righteousness of God

The ministry of the new covenant, a ministry of the Spirit and of righteousness, will work out a condition of righteousness first in individuals, second in the church, and third in the millennial kingdom. When the kingdom comes, there will be righteousness on earth. Then everything will be satisfactory to God, and God will justify everything. Although the age of the kingdom has not yet come, **we can have a foretaste of the righteousness of the kingdom today in the church life and in our family life.** Sometimes in a certain local church the condition may be such that everything, everyone, and every matter is justified by God. Such a church is God's righteousness. This kind of condition may also be present in our family life...

Many of today's Christians know only that Christ died for their sins. They do not realize that Christ died for them as the flesh, as the old creation. But in 2 Corinthians Paul does not speak of Christ dying for our sins. Instead, in 5:14 he says, "One died on behalf of all." This means that **Christ died for us.** In 1 Corinthians 15:3 Paul tells us that Christ died for our sins. In order that our sins might be forgiven by God, Christ died for our sins. This, however, is simply the initial stage of reconciliation. Christ died on the cross not only for our sins, but He died also for us, for our flesh, our natural being, our outward man. Christ died on the cross so that our outward man, our natural being, may be terminated in order that we may become God's righteousness. Therefore, **Christ died for our sins so that we may be forgiven and justified by God.** But **Christ died for us so that we may become God's righteousness.**

Becoming the righteousness of God is much deeper than being justified by God. The new covenant ministry brings us back to God to such an extent that we actually become God's righteousness. Not only are we justified by God, but we even become the righteousness of God (Excerpts from LS of 2 Corinthians Msg. 37).

## Announcements:

1. SST Open Meetings on August 5 at 6pm and August 8 at 6pm via Zoom.
2. Sisters' Meeting on August 8 at 2:30pm at Sister Cassy Zhang's place.
3. Love feast on August 8.

**Prayer Burdens:**

1. Lord, extend our vision to see the ministry of the age. Thank You for setting us apart to serve You according to this vision. May we never be disobedient to what You have shown us.
2. Lord, we are not living here for ourselves. We are here for Your eternal purpose – the New Jerusalem. Make us willing to subject ourselves under Your throne and take You as our authority.
3. Bring us on level by level in our experience of Your organic salvation. May we realize that as God-men, we have the divine right to participate in Your life, nature, mind, being, and image. May we all participate in Your glory at Your coming.
4. We praise You for the ministry of the Spirit, which deifies us by inscribing us with the Spirit, and for the ministry of righteousness, which justifies us before God. Make us Your living letters and keep us enjoying You as grace that we may live You out.
5. Lord, we want to fully enter into the Holy of Holies. Deliver us from living in our natural life. Reconcile us fully to You. Take away any veils that nothing would separate us from You.
6. Lord, bring us back to the unique ministry of the New Testament. Prepare us as Your overcomers to be Your bride. Stir up our love for You as our Husband.

**Other Burdens:**

1. Pray for the ongoing European YP Conference—July 26 to August 15 and the Western Canada Summer School of Truth—July 30 to August 8. Gain our young people to be one with You to consummate Your eternal economy for Your coming back.

**Church in Regina:**

1. Goal of 50 meeting ones by end of 2021. Synchronized prayer for our contacts every day.
2. Strengthen and preserve our families. Lord, we declare that we are Your slaves today. May we all have the spirit and love of slave toward You, our Master. Continue to make us obedient to You and Your move on earth today.
3. Pray for Aitong Liu's immigration application. Select them in Your time that they may also come here, be saved, see the church and be Your testimony.
4. Pray for Sister Estela Miranda's recovery from shoulder rotator cuff surgery. Grant her a full recovery as soon as possible.
5. Pray for Bro. Dindo Ballao's health and continuing recovery. Preserve the whole family as they settle here in Regina for Your testimony.
6. Pray for Bro. George Chua's recovery from bypass surgery. Remember him, Lord. May his sickness be Your way to reveal Yourself to him. Grant him repentance and full recovery. Strengthen Sister Venus and their whole family during this time.