

## RECONCILIATION IN CHRIST (2)

By Keith Greer

**God's chosen reconciliation Agent.** Who better could act as God's agent than His Son, Jesus Christ? No man could fill this role. Man, because of his own sins, is the offender. Mankind needed a perfect mediator. "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." {1 Timothy 2:5,6} God's Son perfectly understood both parties. "Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." {Hebrews 2:17,18} Christ is our High Priest, to make reconciliation for our sins. God's desire for this reconciliation was His purpose for sending His Son as a wonderful gift. "For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 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. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled." {Colossians 1:19-21} How deeply God must love us to prompt Him to arrange such a sacrifice for our sins.

**Reconciliation through Christ's cross.** Before He created the world, God had already designed a plan for reconciling sinful mankind to Himself. All people, not just the Jews, need reconciliation. "That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." {Ephesians 2:12,13} Through His Son's death on the cross, God executed His eternal plan—reconciliation for both Jews and Gentiles and removal of the wall of separation. "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity." {Ephesians 2:14-16}

**How and where we obtain reconciliation.** For 1500 years, Moses' Law caused deep hatred and division between Jews and Gentiles. Before each group could worship and accept the other, the Law—given only to the nation of Israel—had to be taken out of the way. Christ's death on the cross accomplished that feat. {Colossians 2:13,14} It opened the door for reconciliation of both Jews and Gentiles via the same means. That door opened first to the Jews—on Pentecost {Acts 2}—and then to the Gentiles {Acts 10}. Paul spoke this truth to those gathered in Jerusalem, "And made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." {Acts 15:9} In Peter's sermon to Cornelius and his household, he proclaimed this same truth. "Then Peter opened his mouth and said: 'In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.'" {Acts 10:34,35} The gospel (a common salvation) was preached to all men. {Matthew 28:19,20; Jude 3}

It makes no difference whether a person is black or white, Jew or Gentile, male or female, all can be reconciled to God through Christ Jesus. We only have to meet God's terms. Whatever reasons men may give for changing the terms of reconciliation it will never be accepted by God. Why? Our loving Father, who desires for all to accept His grace and be saved, made this possible and only through His Son – no other way it can be accomplished! \*\*\*