

Lesson: AMBASSADOR SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

During the month of July, we will study four lessons on Christian ambassadorship.

- July 6 – Ambassador Status
- July 13 – Ambassador Service
- July 20 – Ambassador Shoes
- July 27 – Ambassador Suffering

The Greek word for ambassador is *presbeuo/presbeia*. It is used for a distinguished and privileged messenger sent to represent a sovereign authority.

“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a *delegation (presbeia)* while the other is still along way off and will ask for terms of peace.” (Luke 14:31-32)

EVERY CHURCH AGE BELIEVER IS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE WORLD – HIS AMBASSADOR (2 Cor.5:17-21).

Last week we learned that ambassadorship is 1 of 20 status privileges of grace salvation because of the believer’s union with the exaltation of Jesus Christ.

“Therefore *if any man is in Christ*, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, *new things* have come.” (2 Cor.5:17) **One of these new things is discussed in 5:18-21 as AMBASSADORSHIP.**

The outline of the lesson text is the following three homiletical points.

- Ministry of the ambassador – ministry of reconciliation (5:18)
- Message of the ambassador – word of reconciliation (5:19, 21)
- Mission of the ambassador – reconciliation to God (5:20)

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of AMBASSADOR SERVICE.

1. As an ambassador, every church age believer has the responsibility of Ambassador Service.

At the point of salvation, every believer becomes positionally an ambassador in Christ (2 Cor.5:17-20/ top circle). It is 1 of the 20 status privileges of grace salvation.

However, the new believer is a baby in spiritual growth (1 Pet.2:2/ regeneration). To become active in service, this baby believer will need to grow into spiritual adult status (Heb.5:13-14; Eph.4:11-16).

“For the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.” (Eph.4:12)

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by the craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.” (Eph.4:14-15)

2. The ministry of ambassadorship is reconciling a lost world to God through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The reason that mankind needs to be reconciled to God through the gospel of Jesus Christ is because of the 13 judicial charges of Adam’s original sin (AOS) against all members of human race.

Alienation (Eph.2:12-15,19; Rom.5:6; Col.1:21-22)
Blind (Acts 28:18)
Condemned (Rom.8:1-3)
Cursed (Gal.3:10-14)
Darkness (Col.1:13-14)
Death (Rom.5:12-21)
Enmity (Rom.5:10)

Natural man (1 Cor.2:12-14)
Perishing (John 3:16)
Slave market (Gal.4:7; 5:1,13)
Unrighteous (Rom.3:10,22-24)
Ungodly (1 Tim.1:9,15)
Wrath (John 3:36)

The result of reconciliation is peace with God – “Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Rom.5:1)

“For if while 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.” (Rom.5:10)

3. The message of the ambassador is the gospel of grace salvation (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

“Now all these things (ta panta/ npln/ 20 status privileges/ 5:17) are from (ek+abl of source/ grace) **God**, who reconciled (tou katallasso/ a.a.ptc abls) **us** to Himself through (dia+abl of agent) **Christ**, and gave (didomi/ a.a.ptc abls) **us** the ministry (ten diakonia/asm), of reconciliation (tes katallage/ gsf), namely, that (ho/declarative particle with hoti) **God** was (eimi/ impf.a.ind. 3ps) in (en+inst.of means) **Christ** reconciling (katallasso/p.a.ptc nsm) the **world** to Himself, not counting (me logizomai/ p.m.ptc nsm) **their** trespasses (ta paraptoma/ apln) against them, and He has committed (tithemi/ a.m.ptc nsm) to **us** the word (ton logos/ asm) of reconciliation (tes katallage/ gsf).” (2 Cor.5:18-19)

The ministry of reconciliation is – “God reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation.”

The word of reconciliation is – “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” (2 Pet.3:9; 1Tim.2:4-5; Titus 2:11; 1 John 2:2)

4. The mission field of the ambassador for Christ is the WORLD (2 Cor.5:18-20; John 3:16-17; 1 Tim.1:15). “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.” (2 Cor.5:19)

“Therefore, *we are ambassadors* (presbeuo/ p.a.ind 1pl) for (huper+abl of subst.) Christ, as (hos/ concessive particle of introduction to entreating) **though God** (tou theos/ gsm) were entreating (parakaleo/ p.a.ptc gsm) through (dia+abl of agent) **us**; *we beg* (deomai/ p.m.ind 1pl) **you** on behalf of (huper+abl) Christ, **be reconciled (katallasso/ a.p.impv.1pl) to God (to theos/ dsm).**” (2 Cor.5:20)

An Ambassador entreats and begs on behalf of Christ for the world to be reconciled to God. The good news is that the war between an ungodly world and a righteous God is over. It was won on their behalf by

Christ. The basis for peace is accepting the word of reconciliation (Rom.5:1-11). “*He made (poieo/ a.a.ind 3ps) Him who knew no (ton ginomai/ a.a.ptc asm/ me) sin to be sin (hamartia/ asf/ direct object of made) on our behalf (huper+abl), that (hina/ divine purpose) we might become (ginomai/ a.p.subj.1pl) the righteousness (dikaiosune) of God (theos/gsm) in (en+inst.of assoc) Him.*”
(2 Cor.5:21)