

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

THINK!! Why did God use the metaphor of AMBASSADOR? What is an AMBASSADOR? Oh, let it sink in—the moment you became a believer in Christ, King Jesus commissioned you as His AMBASSADOR to those around you, and He bestowed upon you the MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION!

THE CONTEXT FOR THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION—THE URGENCY

150,000 . . . 1 million . . . 2% . . . 90% . . .

A. A Wake-up Call from the Scriptures

1. Acts 26:18 . . .to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'
2. Totally blind! Cannot see the horrific danger awaiting them. Only hope? The power of the gospel. How do they get the gospel?
3. John 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.
4. 2 Cor 5:10-11 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . .

B. Stirring Quotes

In the times of extraordinary crisis ordinary measures will not suffice. The world lives in such a time of crisis. Christians alone are in a position to rescue the perishing. We dare not settle down to try to live as if things were "normal." Nothing is normal while sin and lust and death roam the world, pouncing upon one and another till the whole population has been destroyed.

A.W. Tozer

When a Christian fears for others, his heart cries out, "They will perish, they will perish; they will sink to hell; they will be forever banished from the presence of the Lord." Knowing the terror of the Lord, we will persuade men . . . Say, "We have come out to tell you that the world is on fire, and you must flee for your lives and escape to the mountain, lest you be consumed." . . . He who pleads for Christ should himself be moved with the prospect of Judgment Day.

C.H. Spurgeon

Oh, how I wished that I had a tongue like thunder, that I might make all hear; or that I had a frame like iron, that I might visit every one, and say, "Escape for thy life!"

Robert Murray McCheyne

"We have become dangerously comfortable—believers ooze with wealth and let their addictions to comfort and security numb the radical urgency of the gospel."

Francis Chan

II. THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION—vs. 18-19

A. The Need for Reconciliation

B. A Biblical Picture of the Heart of God in Reconciling Sinners to Himself

" . . . Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. Luke 14:21-24

C. God's Pleading; Our Imploring

1. God's Pleading—to beg, entreat, beseech

Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

2. Our Imploring—to beg, to ask for with urgency

III. THE HUGE IMPORTANCE OF EVANGELISM TRAINING