

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

March 30, 2025

In this passage Paul celebrates the new perspective that comes in Christ, and God's reconciling work in Christ that now makes its appeal to others through his disciples. Those who are united to Christ are part of a new order of creation. For our sake Christ experienced the consequences of human sin that we might have a right relationship with God. Now we are ambassadors of this message of reconciliation. Hear now these words from Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 15:20-24

Our gospel is the parable of the prodigal son, his elder brother, and their loving father. Hearers are meant to participate in the story by experiencing how it feels to be these individuals. One notices that the wastrel son thinks his father will only take him back if he promises to work hard and form a legalistic relationship with him. But what is the father to do when he sees his long-lost son coming down the road? How is the elder son to react to his brothers joyous welcome? The parable closes y leaving that last question to us. Hear now these words from the gospel of Luke.

So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

This is the word of the Lord. **May the reading and the hearing of your word inform our minds, comfort our souls and guide our feet.**