

2 Corinthians 5:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Analysis

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself—Hōs hoti Theos ēn en Christō kosmon katallassōn heautō (ὡς ὅτι θεὸς ἦν ἐν Χριστῷ κόσμον καταλλάσσων ἑαυτῷ). Hōs hoti (ὡς ὅτι, "namely that, to wit") introduces content of reconciliation message. Theos ēn en Christō (θεὸς ἦν ἐν Χριστῷ, "God was in Christ")—the incarnation's mystery: God reconciling through God-in-human-flesh. Kosmon (κόσμον, "world") is cosmic scope—not just Jews but all humanity. Present participle katallassōn (καταλλάσσων) suggests ongoing process—reconciliation accomplished in Christ's death, applied through gospel proclamation.

Not imputing their trespasses unto them—Mē logizomenos autois ta paraptōmata autōn (μὴ λογιζόμενος αὐτοῖς τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν). Logizomai (λογίζομαι) is accounting term—"to reckon, credit, charge." God does NOT charge sins to humanity's account. Paraptōmata (παραπτώματα, "trespasses, transgressions") are willful violations. This is forensic justification—sins credited to Christ (v. 21), righteousness credited to believers (Romans 4:3-8). **And hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation**—kai themenos en hēmin ton logon tēs katallagēs (καὶ θέμενος ἐν ἡμῖν τὸν λόγον τῆς καταλλαγῆς). Themenos (θέμενος, aorist participle of τίθημι, "placed, entrusted") indicates sacred deposit—gospel message entrusted to believers for proclamation.

Historical Context

The concept of not imputing trespasses was revolutionary in honor-shame cultures that demanded vengeance for wrongs. Paul announces cosmic amnesty—God absorbs offense rather than extracting payment from offenders. This reflected God's character revealed in Christ: enemy-love, substitutionary suffering, grace that justifies the ungodly (Romans 4:5).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Do you live with confidence that God is NOT counting your sins against you—or do you still fear His ledger of your failures?
2. How faithfully are you discharging the "word of reconciliation" entrusted to you—who needs to hear God is not counting their sins?
3. Does God's non-imputation of trespasses lead you to moral laxity or inflamed love and gratitude?

Interlinear Text

ὥς	ὅτι	θεὸς	ἦν	ἐν	Χριστῷ	κόσμον	καταλλάσσω
To wit	that	God	was	in	Christ	the world	reconciling
G5613	G3754	G2316	G2258	G1722	G5547	G2889	G2644
ἐαυτῷ	μὴ	λογιζόμενος	αὐτῶν	τὰ	παραπτώματα		
unto himself	not	imputing	their		trespasses		
G1438	G3361	G3049	G846		G3588		G3900
αὐτῶν	καὶ	θέμενος	ἐν	ἡμῖν	τὸν	λόγον	τῆς
their	and	hath committed	in	us		the word	
G846	G2532	G5087	G1722	G2254	G3588	G3056	G3588
καταλλαγῆς							
of reconciliation							
G2643							

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 43:25 (Parallel theme): I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Isaiah 44:22 (Parallel theme): I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

1 John 4:10 (References God): Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 Timothy 3:16 (References God): And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Colossians 2:9 (References God): For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

John 17:23 (Parallel theme): I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Matthew 1:23 (References God): Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

John 14:20 (Parallel theme): At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

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