

Thursday, February 23

## 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

### RECONCILING WITNESS/AMBASSADORS OF RECONCILIATION

*"We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."*

Paul's words in this passage instruct us twice. First, his earnest plea to "be reconciled to God" is not fossilized in the biblical substratum. Rather, as the "living and active" Word of God, it is a plea which begs us even now, in the voice of our own spiritual fathers and mothers: "Be reconciled" (Heb. 4:12; 2 Cor. 12:14). Paul's plea is a reminder that the Gospel is never not for Christians. There is no point at which we move beyond Christ because it is only in, through, and by him that we "might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). Paul warns us that only the truly foolish delay, but those who, like himself, are unafraid of being mislabeled the fool because of the Cross cling to the Gospel of Christ with urgency (Isa. 55:6; 1 Cor. 1;18-31).

Paul also tells us what it is like to be one who is reconciled. First, the reconciled multiply reconciliation as "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20). Reconciliation is Cruciformity: a life of Christ-imitating self-sacrifice which is a libation poured out for the reconciliation of others. Secondly, ambassadors exercise their duty by becoming like Christ—disparaged, disenfranchised, disdained, and distrusted—that others might have every opportunity to cling to the same reconciliation and become ambassadors with us as brothers and sisters.

In this season of reflection and prayerful contemplation, we consider what it means for God to so love the world as to give his only Son and what it means to be one who believes in the Son (Jn. 3:16). Do we despise the cross, or do we wear it with joy, like Christ, for whom we are ambassadors unto the world (Heb. 12:2)?

*Lord Jesus, may you reconcile our hearts to you today that we too may be ambassadors for your reconciliation, one to another as brothers and sisters in you before the Father, God Almighty. Amen.*