

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

RECONCILED

Romans 5:10 - 11 "For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation."

As a Christian you may not give much thought to the fact that at one time in your life you were God's enemy. Paul's words today remind you of the fact that you were. When you were conceived you began your life as His enemy. When you were born you continued your life as His enemy. As His enemy you were hostile to Him and wanted nothing to do with Him.

You remained God's enemy until you became reconciled to God. "Reconciliation is the word used in the New Testament to describe the changed relationship between you and God which is the result of the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ. Reconciliation is the unique work of God. You and all of humanity are the object of this work.

St. Paul discusses in more detail the reconciling work of Jesus in Ephesians 2:14-17: "For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility."

Jesus, by His death on Good Friday, has taken away your sins which were a barrier between you and your heavenly Father. His death also removed the barriers that exist between sinner and sinner. As God forgives you your sins through the shed blood of His Son so He gives you the grace to forgive the sins committed toward you by your sister or brother.

The source of reconciliation is the free and unconditional love of God for you through His Son. You experience this reconciliation in the new divine community created by the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word and the Sacraments. This reconciliation is yours, but also is God's desire for all people in that His Son Jesus Christ died for all. By being reconciled you are freed from your bondage to sin

and become one with God who has adopted you into His family and made you a full heir to receive His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Your Son Jesus to reconcile me to Yourself. Amen.

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in His is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.

See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.
(LSB 825)