

MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

I have good news. In Christ, God has reconciled us to himself. This is a powerful and perhaps overlooked truth of God's word. Apart from Christ, we are separated from God by our sin. The book of Romans tells us the cost or wage for our sin is death. It's what we've earned! Our "good deeds" are worth nothing before God. Our only hope of being made right - reconciled - with God, is Jesus. The only one NOT worthy of death - Jesus - took our punishment upon himself so that we could be reconciled to God. And not only that, but now Jesus' righteousness is credited to us. What an undeserved and life changing gift. However, with that gift comes a responsibility.

Isaiah 64-66; 2 Corinthians 2

2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33; Psalm 71; 2 Corinthians 3

Nahum 1-3; Psalm 149; 2 Corinthians 4

2 Kings 22-23; Psalm 73; 2 Corinthians 5

2 Chronicles 34-35; 2 Corinthians 6

Every week, you'll see the same five content questions. Use them as a guide as you read the scriptures. Pray for consistency in your Bible reading.

1. Who are the main characters in this text and is there anyone you can relate to?
2. Is there anything from this text that we are to do (obey, believe, heed or follow)?
3. What do you learn about God in these chapters and how has that changed what you believe about Him?
4. What do these passages reveal about human nature, sin and our need for God?
5. What's the Good News found in this text?

Every week, you'll see five unique application questions. Use them to help live out what you're learning in scripture. Pray for life transformation.

1. Who is a fruit of your ministry? Who is your letter of recommendation? (see 2 Cor 2)
2. What effect does God's word have on your thoughts, emotions, actions, etc.?
3. How does the hope of a new heaven and new earth affect your life today?
4. What keeps you from forgetting or neglecting God's word?
5. Twice this week in the readings we see a reference to clay. What is God shaping in your life right now?

As followers of Jesus, we now have a responsibility. God has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation. We are to deliver this message to the world. The gospel is still at work, God wants you to join in his work, and that is good news.