

Friday Breakfast with our Master's Men (discussing the great act of God – Incarnation)

Philippians 2:1-11 GAH

I appeal to you in Christ: if there is anything that will stimulate you, any persuasion of love, any inner affection, or compassion, by all of your participation in the Spirit - make my joy full by having one mindset, united in heart love and conviction. Never act out of envy or self-promotion! In humility give preference to others before yourself. Heed others' interests before your own. Have that mindset in yourselves as in Christ Jesus: though existing originally in the nature of God, he did not consider clinging to oneness with God a goal, but he poured himself out; taking the nature of a slave and sharing in humanity, being in every aspect a man. Then, being in human nature he subordinated himself to the extent of death - even death on a cross. At this God exalted him on high, and endowed him with that name above all names; so that at the name of "Jesus" every knee will bow, in the heaven, on earth, and beneath - and every tongue proclaim: "Jesus Christ is Lord!", to the glory of God the Father.

II Corinthians 5:14-21 ESV / GAH

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The love of Christ reigns over us, having concluded this, that one died for all, so, all died; and he died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for him who died and rose again on their behalf. So, we now know no one according to the flesh; even though we once knew Christ according to the flesh, we think of him no longer in this way. For, if anyone is in Christ, he is the new creation; the old has ended, behold, the new has come.

Now this is all of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation, that is: God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not holding their misdeeds against them, and entrusting us with the word of reconciliation. Hence, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we plead with you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. He made him who knew no sin: sin, for us, so that in him we might become the God's righteousness.