

## **All Things Are Of God**

### **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 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. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him*

I want you to open your Bibles today to the Book of Second Corinthians. I'll be preaching to you from Second Corinthians Chapter 5 verses 18 through 21. Now, here's our subject in the event you want to order our tape, hear it again, or share it with someone. I'm preaching today, on the subject: (ALL THINGS ARE OF GOD). If you would like to follow in your Bibles, I'll be using Second Corinthians Chapter 5 verses 18 through 21.

I have a friend who has been a pastor of the same church out in the Midwest, for almost 50 years. He told me several years ago, that one of his deacons, one of his faithful, faithful friends, a church member for many years was in the hospital and not expected to live. The pastor went down to visit with him and they talked a while together and had prayer together. Just before this pastor left, he took this dear friend by the hand and looked into his eyes and said, "I want to ask you a question before I leave." He said, "Friend are you saved, do you know the Lord? Do you have a good hope of eternal life when you leave this earth?" This man looked at this dear pastor who had preached to him for many years, and he said, "Pastor I am, if you told me the truth, because I believe the gospel that you preach. If you're preaching the gospel, (that is the saving gospel) and the gospel of God, then I have a good hope, because I believe that gospel."

When I heard that story, I thought about what a responsibility is upon those who preach the gospel. What a responsibility! The apostle wrote once, "*Necessity is laid upon me, I must preach the gospel. Yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel.*" I wonder if those who preach the gospel today can say with the apostle Paul, (what did he say to the elders at Ephesus before he left them)? Paul was speaking to these elders of the church of Ephesus, he said, "Never to return, you'll never see my face again."

He was going to Rome and had been warned by God by the Spirit of God that he would be put in prison and that he would be martyred. He said to these men, "You'll never see my face again." He said these four things, He said, "*I have served you in the gospel with*

*genuine humility and you know what manner of man I have been among you for the sake of Christ.”*

Secondly, *“I have kept back nothing profitable unto you,”* neither for reward or because of fear, or because of hatred or popularity, *“I’ve kept back nothing, that’s profitable unto you.”*

Thirdly, *“I have not shunned to declare unto you all the council of God.”* What God taught me, I taught you, what God revealed unto me, I preached to you. *“I’ve kept back nothing profitable unto you and I have not shunned unto you all the council of God.”*

The fourth thing he said is this, *“I have coveted no man’s silver, gold or apparel.”* That’s not been my object and it’s not been my thoughts; I have not coveted anything; I have preached unto you the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. I preach as one who may never preach again. I preach as one who must give an account unto God. Not only for what I preach, but also for how I preach.

My friend, by the same token, you are hearing as one who may never hear again. You are hearing as one who must give an account to God; *“Every man shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”*

Our Lord warned us, not only about preaching the truth, but He warned us about how to hear. *“Take heed how you hear. He that hath ears to hear let him hear.”* My prayer as I speak on this subject this morning or preach anytime that I’m speaking to you on this program; I have a two-fold prayer, one is this, *“Lord let me preach the glorious good news and glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in truth, in simplicity, in power and wisdom for the glory of Christ. Let me be an instrument in the hands of the spirit of God to preach the truth in power and simplicity and in wisdom to the people who hear me.”*

The second part of that prayer is this, *“Let those who hear me, not only hear my voice, but they may they hear God speak, by His Spirit through His Word.”* That’s our prayer. You see, if my voice is the only voice you hear, then there will be nothing of eternal value in this message for you. We’ve got to hear Him who speaks through His Word. We’ve got to hear God who speaks through His minister.

Somebody wrote a poem one time that went like this:

We have listened to the preacher  
And truth by Him has been shown,  
But we need a greater teacher,

From the ever lasting throne.  
Because revelation is the work of God alone.

So, while I take heed how I preach, and what I preach, and you take heed how you hear and what you hear, we're shut up to the Spirit of God, making the word effectual, not only to our minds and our understanding, but to our hearts and to saving faith.

Let's look at Second Corinthians Chapter 5, with this prayer on our hearts, "In sincerity, in solemnity, hearing as for eternity." Second Corinthians 5:18, our text begins with a mighty theme. It begins with a bold statement. Learn this and then go on from there. What is the statement? It says, "***And all things are of God,***" all things in creation are of God. It says in Revelation, "*O Lord thou art worthy to receive glory and honor and power for thou has created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*" All things are of God in creation. He made it as it pleases Him.

Secondly, all things are of God in providence. The scripture says, "*The Lord maketh poor, and the Lord maketh rich, the Lord bringeth low and the Lord lifteth up. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without your heavenly Father. He said all the hairs of your head are numbered. He worketh all things after the council of His own will.*" There are no accidents with God. "God moves in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. He plants his footsteps on the sea, and rides upon the storm." God rules and overrules all things "*And by Him all things are held together, by Him, all things consist.*"

Thirdly, all things are of God in creation, in providence, in life and death. Did you know that? Job said, "*Our days are determined, the number of his months are with the Lord. God has set His bounds, he cannot pass.*" First Samuel Chapter 2: says, "*The Lord killeth, the Lord maketh alive. The Lord bringeth down to the grave, the Lord raiseth from the dead.*" All the issues of life and death are in the hands of the Lord. He numbers our days, all things in creation, all things in providence; all things in life and death are of God. Learn that; don't go any further until we learn that. That's the way Paul starts this part of the scripture off, "*And all things are of God.*"

Fourthly, All things in salvation are of God. Jonah summed it up in Jonah 2:9. He said, "*Salvation is of the Lord.*" I preach that, "*Salvation is of the Lord, from beginning to end, from alpha to omega and all in between.*" I know all men do not preach that salvation is of the Lord, but I know this, when they pray, they pray that way. They say, "Lord, save us!" He's the only one who can. They say, "Lord, deliver us." He's the only one who can. "Lord, make your word to be effectual." He's the only one who can. "Lord, bless the message to the hearts of the people." He's the only one who can; "*All things are of God.*" Now, you learn this and you will learn who God is. When you learn

who God is, then we learn who we are. *“All things are of God!”* When we learn this, we’ll learn how to worship and how to glorify God. We’ll learn how to speak respectfully and reverently of God. We’ll learn how to hold God in awe and fear.

You see, back in the Old Testament when they talked about worship, they talked about the fear of the Lord. *“Abraham feared God,”* saying Abraham worshipped God. If we learn this, we’ll learn how to pray. *“All things are of God.”* If we learn how to come before Him in worship, we learn the gospel of His mercy and of His grace when we learn that *“All things are of God,”* (past, present and future).

Let me ask you some questions; sit there a minute and listen and think; let me ask you some questions: Who planned and purposed salvation? Who planned it and who purposed it? The answer is that God did. *“All things are of God.”* When did God plan and purpose salvation, when? Well, the scripture says, *“Before the foundation of the world. I’ve loved you with an everlasting love, therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn you. Christ is the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.”* The gospel is the everlasting gospel. The covenant of mercy is the everlasting covenant.

Third question, why did God plan salvation? Why did He? Ephesians 1, three times says, *“He did it to the praise and the glory of His grace.”* It says, in Ephesians 2, *“That He might gather together all things in Christ, that He might show the exceeding riches of His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”* That’s why He purposed to save a people, for His glory. Who sent Jesus Christ into the world? God did, *“All things are of God. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”* Who sent Him to the cross? Somebody said, *“Did the Jews crucify Christ, or did the Romans crucify Christ, who crucified Christ?”* Listen, wicked men nailed him to that cross, but they did *“what God determined before to be done.”* The scripture says, *“It pleased the Lord to bruise Him.”* He said, *“No man takes my life from me, I lay it down.”* He said, *“For this cause, came I into the world, and for this cause, came I to this hour.”* God Almighty sent Him to the cross to die for our sins.

Who raised Him from the dead? God did. Who chose you to salvation? Are you saved? *“Yes sir, preacher, I am.”* Who saved you? *“God did.”* Did you choose God or did He choose you? Paul said, *“I thank God for you brethren, beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation.”* Who quickened you from the dead? Who quickened me from the dead? *“But you, hath He quickened who were dead in trespasses and in sins. All things are of God.”*

Who begat in us spiritual life? Who gave us life? You must be born again. By whose power are we born again? By whose will are we born again? It’s not by human blood;

*“It’s not by the will of the flesh, not by the will of man, but of God. By His own will, begat He us through the Word of truth.”* Who called us to faith in Christ? God did! *“Whom He has foreknown, He predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. Whom he predestinated, He called, whom He called he justified, whom He justified, He glorified.”*

Who revealed Christ to us? How did we find out who Christ is and why He came and what He did and where He is now? God revealed Him. Paul said, *“When it pleased God who separated me from my mother’s womb to reveal His Son in me. All things are of God.”*

Who keeps us from falling? Who keeps us from perishing in unbelief? Who keeps us from falling under our trials and just being annihilated with depression? *“Now, unto Him that is able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before His throne with exceeding glory, unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”* God did! Who is going to raise me from the grave? Who is going to make me like Christ and take me to glory?

Paul wrote to the Philippians (chapter 1, verse 6) and said, *“I’m confident that He that hath begun a good work in you will finish it in the day of Christ.”* In Philippians 3: He said, *“God will change our vile bodies that they may be fashioned like unto His glorious body according to His power, whereby, He is able to subdue all things under Himself. All things are of God.”* In Revelation 5: He said, *“Thou art worthy O Lord, O Lamb of God, to take the Book and open the seals thereof, for thou was slain, and hath redeemed us to God. Out of every nation, tongue, kindred and tribe under heaven.”*

So, you have to start there if you’re going to go the rest of the way through the scriptures. Start there and learn that, Second Corinthians 5:18, *“All things are of God.”* By His purpose, through His Son, for His glory, it’s a gift.

Look at the next line. Watch this, *“Who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ.”* You talk about the gospel being hemmed up and summed up in one statement; this is the good news. Read it slowly... *“All things are of God, (the living God, the Holy God, the Almighty God of heaven and earth) who hath reconciled us.”* He’s made us friends, who were enemies. He’s forgiven our iniquities, who were great sinners. He’s put away our transgressions, (past, present and future).

He has accomplished atonement by His own blood and made us one with Christ. That’s right! *“God hath reconciled.”* You reconcile enemies. You don’t reconcile friends; you reconcile enemies. We were enemies. That’s what Paul said in Ephesians, *“Without God, without help, without Christ, without hope in this world. We were enemies, children*

*of wrath, even as others, He reconciled us,”* like the prodigal son was reconciled to his father. Look at that slowly; *“God hath reconciled us,”* (you and me, chief of sinners). *“God hath reconciled us.”* David said, *“Who am I that you should show mercy to a sinner like me?”* And He has reconciled us, listen, *“All things are of God who hath reconciled us to Himself, by Jesus Christ.”* The law didn’t do it. We didn’t do it. The church didn’t do it. God did it! *“He reconciled us unto Himself by Jesus Christ,”* by the life of Christ, His obedience is our sanctification. By the blood of Christ, His death is our justification.

Watch this third line here, Second Corinthians 5:18, *“All things are of God who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ.”* It’s through Christ, by Christ and because of Christ, and *“hath given to us this ministry of reconciliation.”* God hath called us and sent us and entrusted us with this gospel of His glorious grace in Christ Jesus. I’m preaching unto you the good news, the glad tidings, a proclamation of freedom, forgiveness and life.

*“We have this treasure in an earthen vessel.”* I’m just a man, and like you, I have no special powers. I can’t save, I can’t put away sin, and I can’t heal. The power is invested in Christ. *“In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the godhead bodily, and I have this treasure in an earthen vessel,”* (in a clay pot). Do you know why? First of all, *“That the power might be of God and not of us.”* And secondly, that you might trust God and not the preacher. *“We are the children of God who worship God in Spirit, who rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh,”* (my flesh, your flesh or anybody else’s). You see, *“God hath committed to us this gospel of reconciliation.”* This message, this good news of reconciliation, He’s entrusted us with this gospel and He’s put it in an earthen vessel that the power might not be of the vessel, but of Him who speaks through the vessel, and *“that your faith might stand, not in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”* You don’t believe anything because I say it; you believe it because God said it. You don’t believe anything because I do, you believe it because God taught you that truth that you might trust Him.

*“It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe,”* not the preaching of foolishness. That’s what’s going on today, the preaching of foolishness. This is a whole different thing here, *“by the foolishness of preaching.”* The world calls it foolishness. *“The preaching of the cross is to them that are perishing, foolishness, but to us who are saved, the preaching of the cross is the power of God and the wisdom of God.”* And God hath chosen by this, (what men call foolishness, the preaching, the preaching of His glory, His gospel, His grace, His Son), *“to save them that believe.”*

Look at verses 18-19, *“All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 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.*” Do you see that little word, “*to wit*” right there in verse 19? “*To wit,*” that means (namely), in other words, I’m going to define it. This gospel of reconciliation and this word of reconciliation that God has put in us, I’m going to define it for you, Paul said. Here it is, I’m going to explain it to you, and “*To wit, (namely), God was in Christ.*” Who? God was in Christ.

That man-child who was born of Mary, lying in the manger in Bethlehem, That’s God in human flesh. That young boy who was brought up in Nazareth, working in his foster-father’s carpenter shop was taken to Jerusalem, when he was 12 years of age, according to the law of the Jewish religion; that young man is God in human flesh. That man Jesus of Nazareth who walked the streets of Jerusalem and Judea, Capernaum and Bethsaida, was Jesus Christ, that’s God Almighty.

*“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* God was in Christ. *“Great is the mystery of Godliness, God was manifested in human flesh,”* God was in Christ. What was God doing in Christ? *“He was reconciling the world to Himself.”* What world is this? *“His people (His elect) out of every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven.”*

Christ represented a people. More than the stars of the sky, the sands of the seashore; He represented a people, a number that no man can number. *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”* He reconciled His people unto Himself, from *“every tongue, tribe, kindred and nation under heaven,”* of every age and every color. *“But, all come to God by Him.”* I didn’t say of every religion. I said of every tribe, kindred, nation and tongue, but they all have one religion. *“There’s one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father, one Mediator between God and men, and that’s Christ Jesus. No man comes to the Father but by Him.”*

*“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”* God was angry. *“God hated the workers of iniquity. God’s angry with the wicked.”* Christ came down and took that enmity and that anger away by satisfying God’s law and honoring God’s justice and God’s not angry anymore. Isaiah said, *“Thou was angry with me, and you have taken it (sin) away and reconcile me to yourself.”* Peter said in first Peter 3:18, *“Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.”* God welcomes and receives us. Listen, *“Not imputing their trespasses to them,”* (not charging). Their sins are not charged against us.

Paul wrote in Philemon, to his friend down in Colossi, he said, "Philemon, this runaway slave, Onesimus, has been converted, he's heard me preach and he's come to know God, he's come to know Christ. Now, I'm sending him back to you." And now, He said, "If he's stolen from you and wronged you in any way, you charge it to me." "I'm your friend and I'll pay. You receive him (Scott-free); you receive him with no strings attached; you receive him as you received me; if he's done you wrong, you charge it to me." That's the way the Lord Jesus Christ brings all for whom He died to God. He says, "Father, charge it to me, *"not imputing their trespasses unto them,"* but charging them to Christ.

Now, watch this, *"And hath committed to us or in us the Word of reconciliation."* God has committed this word, not only to us, but also in us. We receive it, we believe it, we rejoice in it and we rest in it.

Now, watch verse 20. *"We're ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us."* See, we're ambassadors. God sends us, as ambassadors to preach the gospel. If you hear the gospel, you're going to hear it from a man, and here is a man telling you the good news, how God redeems sinners. *"We're ambassadors for Christ as though God did beseech you by us, (in His stead), be ye reconciled to God."* Lay down your shotgun, put up your sword, surrender, stack your arms, and bow to Christ.

Now listen to verse 21, *"He was made sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* Isn't that good news! That's substitution and satisfaction for sin. *"For He (God) hath made Him (Christ) to be sin for us who knew no sin that we, (you and I), might be made the righteousness of God in Him."* My friend, I'm glad, and I rejoice to believe and to preach to you that, *"All things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."* It's freedom from sin, and life everlasting in the Lord Jesus Christ.