

**BOOK OF 2 CORINTHIANS
AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST—PART 3
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21**

Introduction

Paul says here that believers are **ambassadors for Christ in this world!**

An **ambassador** is simply **an official messenger or representative of one nation or kingdom to some other people with a special errand.**

The LORD wants us to be representatives of the kingdom of God, to be missionaries to the people we know and encounter each day of our lives!
God has given to us the ministry of reconciliation!

In the Lord's commission to His disciples who made up that first Church, **He told them to preach the Gospel to every creature, to go into every corner of this world and share Jesus with those who are lost and undone!**

Unfortunately, many of God's people have **forsaken their personal responsibility to be ambassadors** and have adopted the thinking that give to the Church that pays the ministers so they can share Jesus locally and they give to missions so that they can share Jesus in other places and that somehow absolves them of any personal responsibility! But it doesn't!

Every one of us that is saved by God's grace has a responsibility to share Christ with the people around us! God has called each of us to His mission field called the World!

Think about this: **Some of you have a mission field that others may not have access to or be able to labor in!** I can't labor where you work or attend school! I can't labor at your family reunions or with those you hang out with! God has called you to that field! Some people you know might listen to you but they would not listen to me because they don't know me!

We all are to be God's representatives to this world that is headed for hell, and how we respond to that call may make the difference in whether those people spend eternity with or without Christ.

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In order to be the best ambassador for Christ we can be, we said that first
*WE MUST PERSONALLY KNOW CHRIST!
WE MUST KNOW THE HEART OF GOD!*

Missions is the very heartbeat of God! He is at work in the world today reconciling a lost humanity to Himself, and He has made each of us to be a part of that!

The Adamic nature, the old man within us, our flesh, resists sharing Christ with other people! The carnal, sinful flesh within us tries to control our thoughts and actions when the Spirit of God in us prompts us to proclaim the Savior!

We all have experienced times when our flesh has talked us out of sharing the Gospel with someone when the Holy Spirit was prompting us TO share the Gospel? We allow that to happen too often!

Now, tonight I want us to see that in addition to these two things, in order for us to be the ambassadors for Christ that God would have us to be:

III. WE MUST KNOW THE PLAN OF GOD!

When Jesus left this earth, He commissioned His Church to be actively involved in representing Him in world missions!

In *Acts 1:8*, He said, "*...and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*"

Our first and foremost concern today should not be just the uttermost part of the earth, or Samaria or even Judea.

Our first and foremost concern today should be our Jerusalem—it is the place where we live our lives!

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That is where we all should be being an ambassador for Christ!

Now we know that God burdens some to go to the Judea's, the Samaria's and the uttermost parts of the earth out of His local Churches! And we are to both prayerfully and financially support those efforts! But God's plan for each of us is that we reach the people in our circle of influence right where we live!

Look with me at *verse 20* of our text.

"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."

How is this world going to be reconciled to God or led to Christ?
Through God's working through each one of us that know Him!

Paul says here that it was as though God was pleading with those in Corinth through him and the other believers that had witnessed to them to bring them to the LORD! *"...as though God did beseech you by us...We pray you in Christ's stead (i.e. On His behalf!), be ye reconciled to God."*

Do you see it? God's plan is for each of us who are believers be the channel through which He speaks! We are God's sound system!

We are the medium through which He speaks and works in reconciling this world to Himself!

We don't have to share the Gospel just exactly like others do! We don't have to be like the pastor or like some other preacher or person!

God has chosen each of us to represent Him and He wants to speak through us to the people we encounter using us just like we are as we grow in our relationship with Him!

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D.L. Moody once spoke with a woman who didn't like his method of evangelism. He said *"I don't really like mine all that much either. What's yours?"* She replied that she didn't have one. Moody said, *"Well then I like mine better than yours."*

Hey! Is God getting His message out to anyone in the world through you? I'm not asking you to answer whether He is getting it out through me or anyone else—Because you won't answer for me or anyone else, only for yourself!

WE MUST PERSONALLY KNOW CHRIST!

We can't properly represent Christ if we've never known Him!
WE MUST KNOW THE HEART OF GOD!

This goes to drawing close to Christ and knowing His heart's desire, and that is to reconcile a lost humanity to Himself!

WE MUST KNOW THE PLAN OF GOD!

God's plan is to speak through us! He pleads with people through us!

IV. WE MUST KNOW THE WAY OF GOD!

Now one might assume that if you know all of that you would know the way of God, but that's not necessarily so.

I've asked people before if they know how to share Christ with others, and too often they'll say no.

In verse 21, Paul said, *"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."*

There's the way of God! The God of this universe, Who longs to have a relationship with man, could not because man had sinned against Him!

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When Adam turned his back on God in disobedience in the garden of Eden, God had to turn His back on man—He could not accept him in his sinful state!

But I thank God that He didn't leave man in that lost condition! He provided the means whereby reconciliation could take place! **And that reconciliation had to come from God because none of us could reconcile ourselves to God!** We were totally inept!

God chose to remove the enmity that stood between Himself and man, and **the means that He chose to use to remove that enmity was the Lord Jesus Christ!**

God made Jesus Christ the sacrifice for our sin! He knew no sin! He had done nothing wrong! **Yet God made Christ to be sin for us!**

Why did He do it? **So that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him!** God so loved the world—He so loved us all that He gave His only begotten Son to be the payment for our sin so that we might be called the sons of God!

God provided a way that both relationship and fellowship could be restored! That way was through what Jesus willingly endured on our behalf!

That's the way of God! God's plan is to share His wonderful message of redemption to man through each one of us who are saved! **God's way is NOT the way of just praying a sinners prayer someone wrote asking Jesus into your heart!**

That's a man-made plan of salvation! It may sound cute and simple, **but if it leaves out repentance and faith, its not God's way!**

God's way is NOT the way of being good or staying faithful!

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That is man's religion and it will leave a person empty and hopeless in the end! Because we can't live up to God's holy standard of perfection!

God's way is through **repentance of sin and faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone for salvation**—the One Who said, *"I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me."*

Now we know that to many in the world that is going to sound foolish which is probably why we hesitate to share it like we should. But there's nothing foolish about it at all! In fact, Paul called it *"the gospel of Christ"* and said that is *"the power of God unto salvation!"* (Romans 1:16)

Conclusion

Turn with me to **Ezekiel 3:17-19.**

Without giving you a lot of commentary, understand that God had called the prophet Ezekiel to go and preach God's message to the people of Israel.

In last phrase of *verse 17*, we see God's plan has always been the same: God said *"give them warning from me."* Ezekiel, was God's microphone, His PA system! He was to plead with them on God's behalf! So, Ezekiel came to know the way of God! He warned them! He told them what was coming and gave them God's message! Is that not what God has called upon us to do?

But what God says next is what I want us to see. (*Vs 18*) God holds those whom He has called personally responsible for not sharing His message! He holds us personally responsible for not being the means through which He speaks!

When God says to the lost man that he has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and the wages of his sin is death, and that without Christ as his Savior he'll die in his sin and perish, and we refuse to warn him to lead him to salvation!

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If that man dies in his sin, then God holds us in part personally responsible!

I'm sure there are going to be some people in hell who crossed our paths and we refused to share Christ with them! Is it possible that they are there in part because of us? We don't like to think so, but the Bible sheds different light on the issue!

He went on to say, if you do warn him and he still refuses, then you have done your part and you are in the clear! You see, it is not your job or mine to get people saved! Our responsibility as ambassadors is to share the message of our King! It is up to them what they do with it!

What kind of ambassador have you been for Christ? Have you been fulfilling your calling? Have you been representing Christ to your Jerusalem or have you been enjoying the vacation here while the natives go to hell?

How effective have you been as God's personal sound system?
Is His message getting through loud and clear? Or has He been frustrated by the constant static and interference as your flesh puts God's desires on the back burner?

We are God's "**A-Plan**"! His Ambassador Plan! God has no "B-Plan"! If the lost are to hear the Gospel story and have an opportunity to come to Christ it will be through us!

God's A-Plan! *"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ..."*