

Series: 2 Corinthians

“A Christian is an Ambassador for the King of Kings”

(Sunday Morning October 25th, 2026)

Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

O.S. When Jesus Stood Before the Roman Governor Pilate to be Questioned Regarding the Accusations That Had Been Made Against Him, Pilate Asked Him if He Was the King of the Jews, and Jesus Answered by Saying This; He Said,

“...’My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.’” (John 18:36)

- > **Jesus Was Making It Clear That He Had no Interest in Overthrowing Rome, and He Had no Interest in Setting Up an Earthly Kingdom at That Time**
- > **The Time Will Come When He Will Set Up an Earthly Kingdom; But at This Time, Jesus Reigns in Heaven at the Right Hand of the Father Over a Spiritual Kingdom**
- > **And All of Us Who Have Received Jesus Christ as Our Personal Lord and Savior are a Part of That Spiritual Kingdom**
- > **I am a Citizen, for Example, of the United States of America; I am a Citizen of This Country, Because I Was Born in This Country**
- > **But I am Also a Citizen of the Kingdom of God, and My Eternal Citizenship Takes Precedence Over My Temporal Citizenship**
- > **I Endeavor to Obey the Laws of the United States of America, BECAUSE (Listen to This) BECAUSE My King, the Lord Jesus Christ, Tells Me That I Should do So**
- > **But When the Laws of the United States of America Violate the Laws of the Kingdom of God, I Have No Other Choice Except to Obey the Laws of the Kingdom of God**
- > **This is Why the Apostles Refused to Obey the Sanhedrin When the Sanhedrin Commanded Them to Stop Preaching in the Name Jesus Christ**
- > **The Apostle Peter Answered Their Command to Stop Preaching in the Name of Jesus Christ by Saying “...’we must obey God rather than man” (Acts 5:29)**
- > **And Peter Said That Because God Has Given Us the Greater Command (Elaborate)**

St = On June 26th of 2015, the United States Supreme Court Legalized Same Sex Marriage, But I Can Promise You That I Will Never Preside Over a Same Sex Marriage and I Will Never Endorse Same Sex Marriage

- > **People Can Call Me a Bigot or a Homophobe But I Really Have No Other Choice, Because Homosexuality is Not an Acceptable Lifestyle Within the Kingdom of God**
- > **In Fact, My Bible Tells Me That It is Impossible (Are You Listening?); My Bible Tells Me That It is Impossible to be a Practicing Homosexual and a Citizen of the Kingdom of God (That is Found in *1 Cor 6:9-10* = Elaborate = Will Not Inherit...)**

Pt = As a Citizen of the Kingdom of God, I am Bound to a Set of Ethics That are Higher and More Lofty Than the Ethics of Any Earthly Kingdom; They are Called “The Beattitudes”, and They are Found in the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7)

T.S. Now, I am Not Only a Citizen of the Kingdom of God; I am Also an Ambassador for My King While I am Residing Upon This Earth

- > **This World, as the Old Song Says, is Not My Home I’m Just Passin Through**
 - > **The Bible Says That I am a Stranger, a Sojourner, a Pilgrim, Upon This Earth**
 - > **My Home is in Heaven, and I Believe That I Would be There Right Now if It Were Not for the Fact That My King Has Given Me an Assignment**
 - > **I Have Been Commissioned by My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to be His Ambassador Upon This Earth, and So Have You if You are a Christian**
 - > **Now, an Ambassador, as Most of Us Know, is a Person Who Lives in a Foreign Country as a Representative of His Own Country**
 - > **He Promotes the Interests of His Own Country in That Foreign Land, and He Delivers a Message From His King to That Other Country**
 - > **An Ambassador Was Also Used in Biblical Times, Listen to This, to Offer Terms of Peace, and I Believe That is What This Passage of Scripture is All About**
 - > **In Fact, It is Very Easy to See What the Theme of This Passage is Because the Word “Reconciliation” Appears Five Times in Three Verses (Let’s Read Verses 18-20 Again)**
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I. (An Ambassador) Who Presents the Method of Reconciliation

1) It Has Been Initiated by God

- > Paul Begins by Saying *“Now, all of these things are from God...”*, and This Tells Us That God is the One Who Has Taken the Initiative
 - > The Great News is That We Have a God Who Has a Desire in His Heart for Every Man and Woman on the Face of This Earth to be Reconciled to Him
 - > UNFORTUNATELY, We Did Not Seek to be Reconciled to God; BUT FORTUNATELY, God Did Seek to be Reconciled to Us
 - > In *Romans 3:11*, the Apostle Paul Said, *“THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD”*
 - > We Did Not Seek to be Reconciled to God, But God Sought to be Reconciled to Us
 - > And This Goes All the Way Back to the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden, the Bible Says That God Came Into the Garden After the Fall and He Called Out to Adam Saying *“Where are You?”* (Gen 3:9)
 - > Adam and Eve Were Not Seeking God After the Fall But God Was Seeking Them, and God Set Up a Method for Reconciliation
 - > You See, You Don’t Have to Worry About Whether God Has a Desire in His Heart to be Reconciled to You, Because the Scriptures Clearly Tell Us That He Does
 - > In *1 Timothy 2:3-4*, the Apostle Paul Said, *“3...God our Savior, 4 ...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”*
 - > You See, We Were so Depraved That We Would Not Initiate It on Our Own; and So, God Initiated It for Us, Because This is the Heart of God
 - > And One of My Favorite Examples of This Comes From Jesus’ Parable of the Prodigal Son
 - > For You See, the Father in That Parable Represents God, and Jesus Describes Him as Looking for the Prodigal, as Seeing Him When He Was Still Far Off and Running to Meet Him – Isn’t That a Beautiful Description of God? (Elaborate = Heart)
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T.S. 1) It Has Been Initiated by God

2) It Has Been Provided by God

- > Paul Went on to Say *“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself”* **THROUGH CHRIST...**
 - > God Had to Provide This Method of Reconciliation, Because We Were Not Able To
 - > You See, in Every Case Where Human Beings are Concerned Reconciliation Requires Some Give and Some Take From Both Parties
 - > Because We are All Sinners, We All Have to Acknowledge Some Kind of Wrongdoing in the Matter; and Then, There Will Hopefully be Some Give and Take on Both Sides That Will Make Reconciliation Possible
 - > One of the Best Ways for Couples to be Reconciled is for Each Person to be Willing to Admit Some Wrongdoing, and It is Tragic When One or Both of Them Won't
 - > But Listen, When It Comes to Being Reconciled to God, God Holds All of the Cards, Because God is Holy and Sinless
 - > God is Also Perfectly Just, and God Cannot Violate His Perfect Justice; Otherwise, He Would be Violating His Own Divine Nature
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Ill: Imagine, for Example, a Man Standing Before a Judge and Confessing His Horrific Crimes; He Says, *“Yes, I am a Mass Murderer; I Killed Several People, and This is How I Killed Them, and This is Where and How I Disposed of Their Bodies”*

- > Then, He Says, *“But Judge I Want You to Know That I'm Really Sorry About This and I Won't do It Again; So, Will You Please be Gracious and Forgive Me?”*

Q.n = What if That Judge Said, *“O.K. I Forgive You, and I Feel Compassion for You; And So, You're Free to Go?”*

- > Well, That Judge Probably Wouldn't be a Judge for Very Long, Because There is No Justice in That
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- > This is Why, Listen to Me Now, This is Why God Could Not Simply Pass Over Our Sin Without Requiring a Sacrifice

- > God's Wrath Against Our Sin Had to be Satisfied, and This is Why Jesus Had to Die on the Cross at Calvary

St = In 1 John 2:2, the Apostle John Said, *“He Himself (Referring to Jesus) is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world”*

- > That Word ***“Propitiation”*** is a Long Word, But It is a Biblical Word; So, It is a Word That We All Need to Understand, and It Literally Means ***“To Satisfy”***
 - > So, John is Telling Us That Jesus’ Sacrifice on the Cross Satisfied the Wrath of God Against Our Sin, and This is What Was Necessary to Fulfill God’s Requirement for Perfect Justice
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Ill: Now, Let’s go Back to That Courtroom Scene, That Mass Murderer Makes a Full Confession; and Then, He Says He’s Sorry and He Asks the Judge to Forgive Him

Q.n = What if the Judge Said This?

- > **O.K. I am Willing to Forgive You and I Have Compassion for You, But I am a Judge; and Therefore, I Must Require Justice, and This is It**
- > **You are Hereby Sentenced to be Scourged and Mocked and Spit Upon; and Then, You Will be and Crucified and Killed**

Q.n = Does That Satisfy Justice?

Ans = Yes It Does

Q.n = So, Can We Accuse that Judge of Being Unfair?

Ans = No, We Cannot

- > **And the Truth is That All of Us Who are Christians Have Been Scourged and Mocked and Spit Upon and Crucified and Killed, Because Jesus Endured All of That for Us**
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- > **This is Why the Prophet Isaiah Said That Our Lord *“5...was pierced through for our transgression, (and) He was crushed for our iniquities... 6 (and God) ...has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”* (Isa 53:5-6)**
- > **And This is Why the Apostle Peter Said This About Jesus; He Said, *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross,...”* (1 Pet 2:24)**
- > **Jesus Has Provided What Bible Scholars Call a Substitutionary Atonement, Because This Was the Only Way That God’s Perfect Justice Could be Satisfied**

St = So, God Desires to be Reconciled to All Men and All Women, and He Holds All of the Cards Because He is Holy and Sinless But We are All Sinners

- > **AND God Has Provided a Way for Every Person to be Reconciled to Him**

Q.n = So, What are God's Terms for Peace?

Ans = Total and Unconditional Surrender

-> **I am an Ambassador for My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and so, if You are Not a Christian, I Have Been Called by God to Present to You His Terms for Peace; And So, I am Going to Lay Them All Out for You**

i. God is All-Powerful; and So, There is No Way for You to Escape His Judgment

ii. God is All-Knowing; And So, God Knows That You are Guilty of Treason Since You Have Violated His Holy Standards

iii. God is Perfectly Just; and Therefore, God Cannot Overlook Your Crime

iv. The Sentence Against Your Crime is Death, and You Will Have to Spend All of Eternity in a Devil's Hell (And if You Don't Understand Why, That Means...)

v. You Have an Option, and There is Only One Option; Your Only Option is Total and Unconditional Surrender

-> **This Means That You Need to Confess That You Have Sinned and You Have Fallen Short of the Glory of God, and You Need to Repent of Your Sins and Submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ**

Q.n = What is the First of the Beattitudes? (Elaborate = I Mentioned Them in My Introduction)

Ans = Blessed are the Poor in Spirit (Matt 4:3)

Q.n = Why is That the First of the Beattitudes?

Ans = It Represents Total and Unconditional Surrender

-> **And So, Our Reconciliation is Made Available by Faith in Jesus Christ, and It Begins With Our Total and Unconditional Surrender to His Lordship**

T.S. I. (An Ambassador) Who Presents the Method of Reconciliation

II. (An Ambassador) Who Proclaims the Message of Reconciliation

Verses 18-19 (Read)

1) It Has Been Experienced by Us

-> I Want You to Notice That Paul Makes a Distinction Between the Ministry of Reconciliation and the Message of Reconciliation

Q.n = Why Did Paul Make This Distinction?

Ans = A Couple of Reasons

a. We are His Samples

- > If You Want to Know Why God Has Given Us This Responsibility Instead of the Angels, the Answer is Simple; It is Because We Have Experienced It
- > In 1 Peter 1:12, Peter Said This in Reference to the Gospel; He Said, "(These are)...*things into which angels long to look*"
- > That Verse Tells Us That the Angels do Not Fully Understand the Gospel, Because They Have Not Experienced the Effects of the Gospel
- > We Have Firsthand Knowledge; and Therefore, We are Able to Tell Lost Men and Women Everything There is to Know About Our Message
- > This Also Falls Right in Line With What It Means to be an Ambassador, Because an Ambassador Needs to be Constantly Aware of the Fact That He is a Representative of His King in a Foreign Land
- > If We Had an Ambassador Who Was a Drunk and a Slob, and He Was Always Going Around Talking Negatively About the United States, We Would Probably Recall Him in a Hurry (Don't You Think?)
- > And So, for the Same Reason, We Need to Realize That All of Us Who Claim to Know Christ are Constantly Putting Him on Display (Elaborate = With Our Attitudes, With Our Actions, With Our Speech, With Our Clothing Etcetera)
- > Another Way We Do This is by the Way That We Express Our Love to One Another
"By this..." Jesus Said "...*all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.*" (John 13:35)

T.S. a. We are His Samples

b. We are His Servants

- > The Greek Word That Paul Used for Ministry Here is the Word "*Diakonos*" From Which We Get the Word "*Deacon*", and It Literally Means "*Servant*"
- > And So, We Know That Our Lord Wants Us to Follow His Example by Serving Others

-> ***“For even the Son of Man...” Jesus Said, “...did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)***

-> **That’s the Example That He Set for Us, and Our Ministry to Others Will Enhance Our Ability to Reach Others**

-> **That’s Why the Apostle Peter Said This in *1 Peter 2:12*; He Said, “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may (Listen to This) because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation”**

Q.n = Did You Know That Those Early Christians Were Slandered as Evildoers?

Ans = They Were Accused of Atheism (Elaborate); They Were Accused of Cannibalism (Elaborate); They Were Accused of Breaking Up Families and Inciting Slaves

-> **Only a Truly Great Ambassador Could Turn the Tide Against All of That**

Q.n = And Do You Know What the Day of Visitation Refers to?

Ans = It Refers to Blessing or Judgment

-> **For You See, if God Visits You, It Will be for One of Those Two Reasons Either for Blessing or for Judgment**

-> **The Phrase is Used in *1 Samuel 2* to Refer to God Visiting Hannah and Blessing Her With the Ability to Have a Male Child, But the Same Phrase is Also Used in *Isaiah 10:3* to Refer to a Visitation of Judgment**

-> **And the Point is That God is Going to be Glorified Either Way if We Will Keep Our Behavior Excellent and if We Will Adorn the Gospel With Good Deeds**

-> **Some Will be Drawn Into the Kingdom of God by This; and So, They Will be Greatly Blessed While Others Will be Forced to Admit That They Were Wrong on the Day of Judgment; But One Way or Another, God Will be Glorified by It**

T.S. 1) It Has Been Experienced by Us

2) It Has Been Delegated to Us

-> **God Created Us for the Purpose of Bringing Honor and Glory to Him**

-> ***Ephesians 1:5* Says “5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, (and What is His Will?) 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace” (BTW – We Can All Agree to Predestination at This Point)**

-> **The Westminster Confession of Faith Says “It is the Chief End of Man to Glorify God and Enjoy Him Forever”; This is Purpose for Which God Created Us**

Q.n = But Listen to Me Now, are You Listening?

- > **God Did Not Leave Us on This Earth for the Sole Purpose of Glorifying Him; Because if That Were the Case, We Would be More Capable of It in Heaven**
- > **In Heaven, We Will be Completely Pure and Holy; in Heaven, We Will be Better Able to Praise Him; in Heaven, We Will be Better Able to Commune With Him**
- > **There is, However, One Thing That We Cannot do Better in Heaven Than We Can do Here and That is the Work of Evangelism (Elaborate = No Lost People in Heaven)**
- > **And So, the Reason God Has Left Us Upon This Earth is so That We Can be His Ambassadors and Share With Others His Message of Reconciliation**
- > **He Did Not Give This Task to the Angels, for the Reason, I Stated Earlier; They Haven't Experienced It**
- > **Nor Did God Come Up With Some Way of Accomplishing This Without Us, Instead, God Decided to Accomplish This Through Us**
- > **And So, if We do Not Take Up the Task of Being His Ambassadors and Sharing His Message With the Lost, It is Not Going to Happen**
- > **You See, Paul is Just Giving Us a Broader Description of the Great Commission in These Verses (Matt 28:19-20)**

Q.n = So, How are You Doing? Are You Fulfilling Your Purpose as an Ambassador for the King of Kings While You are on This Earth? (E...Two Embarassing Q.ns)

- > **I Think This Sermon is Timely, Because We Have Given You a Tool to Help You do This, and It is Called a Ticket to Our "*Bring a Friend Day*" (E...They Will Hear)**

III. (An Ambassador) Who Promotes the Magnificence of Reconciliation

1) We Can be Changed

Verse 16 (Read)

- > **I Absolutely Love This Verse, Because It Tells Us That the Apostle Paul Had Learned Something; Paul Had Learned to Look at People Differently**
- > **He Had Learned to Look at People, Not in the Way That They Appear to be Today, But to Look at Them in Terms of What They Can Become "*in Christ*."**

-> And He Gives Us the Answer to What They Can Become *“in Christ”* in Verse 17

Verse 17 (Read)

-> You See, We All Have This Terrible Way of Sizing People Up, and This Causes Us to Get Discouraged About Witnessing

-> *“Oh, He’s an Intellectual”*, We Say to Ourselves, *“He Won’t Listen to a Simple and Straightforward Presentation of the Gospel; He Will Probably Just Give Me a Horse’s Laugh”*; and So, We Don’t Witness to Him

-> Or *“That Guy Next Door Drinks, and Smokes, and He Uses Profanity; I Could Never Get Him to Visit My Church”*; and So, We Don’t Bother to Ask Him

Q.n = Why is It so Difficult for Us to Witness to These People?

Ans = Because We’re Looking at Them *“According to the Flesh”*

-> Listen, We Need to Stop Doing That, and We Need to Start Getting Optimistic, Because God Has the Ability to Change People (Can I Get a Witness This Morning?)

Ex = Matthew Was a Tax Collector; and So, for All We Know, He Could Have Been a Greedy Materialist Before He Came to Christ

Ex = The Apostle Paul Was Obsessed With Political Power and Prestige, But God Changed Paul and Turned Him Into a Great Proclaimer of the Gospel

Ex = One of My Seminary Professors Called the Gadarene Demoniac a Nude Dude in a Rude Mood, But God Changed Him and Restored His Sanity

T.S. 1) We Can be Changed

2) We Can Be Enriched

Verses 20-21 (Read)

-> This is What We Have to Offer, and I Want You Know That It is the Greatest Offer in the Universe

-> To Begin With, This Means That Jesus is Willing to Take All of Our Sin Upon Himself; in Fact, He Has Already Done That for Us

-> A Person Does Not Reap the Benefits of This Until He Receives Jesus Christ as His Personal Lord and Savior, But the Benefits are Already in Place

- > Paul Expressed This Truth in *Galatians 3:13* When He Said, “*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us...*”
- > Now, This Does Not Mean That Jesus Became Sinful; It Means That Jesus Bore the Weight of Our Sin as He Was Dying on the Cross
- > Or to Put It Another Way, This Means That God Treated Jesus on the Cross Just as if He Had Lived Your Life and My Life
- > And That is Why Paul Said This in *Romans 8:32*, He Said, “*He (God the Father) did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all...*”
- > That Literally Means That God the Father Did Not Hold Back or Mitigate His Wrath Against Our Sin in Any Way; Jesus Bore the Weight of All of It
- > But Then, Paul Adds a Truly Exciting Offer in the Second Part of *Verse 21* When He Said “...so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”

Q.n = What Does That Mean?

Ans = He Gives Us His Life

- > That Means That God Takes Our Sinful Life and Gives It to Jesus Who Deals With It at the Cross, and God Takes Jesus’ Perfect and Righteous Life and Gives It to Us
- > By the Way, This is One of the Reasons That Jesus Lived for 33 Years Upon This Earth; He Did That so That He Would Have a Righteous Life to Give to Us
- > This Means That We are “*Enriched*,” Because We Have Something Truly Magnificent to Offer People; in Fact, This Has Been Called “*The Great Exchange*” (Elaborate)

III: On May 10th of 1869, a Truly Amazing Feat Was Accomplished, and It Became One of the Biggest Mass Media Events in American History

- > One Man Said That This Event Accomplished the Same Things in That Day That the Modern Internet Has Accomplished in Our Day, Because It Greatly Improved Transportation - and Commerce - and Communication
- > It Was a Project That Took Six Years to Complete and Thousands Upon Thousands of Man Hours, and It Was Called “*The Transcontinental Railroad*”
- > A Group of Men From the Central Pacific Railroad Coming From the West Met a Group of Men From the Union Pacific Railroad in the East at Promotory Summit in Utah

- > **And a Man Named Leland Stanford, for Whom Stanford University is Named, Was Given the Privilege of Driving the Last Golden Spike (And by the Way, He Missed)**
- > **But Nevertheless, the Telegraph Line Was Completed, and the Telegraph Operator Sent One Word; It Was the Word “*Done*”**
- > **And Immediately After That Happened, There Were More Cannon Shots Than Those That Happened at the Battle of Gettysburg; the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia Started Ringing, and Fireworks Went Off, and Everyone in America Rejoiced About That Great Accomplishment, and This is Why**
 - . **Before the Intercontinental Railroad Was Completed, It Took Six Months to Cross the United States From Coast to Coast; and Now, It Only Took One Week**
 - . **Before the Intercontinental Railroad Was Completed, It Would Cost a Person \$1,000 to Travel Across the Country (in 1869); and Now, It Would Only Cost \$150**
 - . **Before the Intercontinental Railroad Was Completed, It Would Cost a Person Several Dollars Per Ounce to Send a Package From Chicago to California, and It Would Take Months to Get There; and Now, It Would Only Cost a Few Cents, and That Same Package Would be There in a Week**
 - . **And Now, It Was Possible to Send Telegrams Instantly From the East Coast to the West Coast, and Companies Could Sell Their Products From Coast to Coast**
 - . **Furthermore, the United States Was on the Brink of Bankruptcy Right After the Civil War, But the Intercontinental Railroad Almost Instantly Healed the Economy and This is What Made the Industrial Revolution Possible**

Q.n = Now, Listen to Me, are You Listening?

- > **“*The Transcontinental Railroad*” Was a Magnificent Accomplishment, Because It Spanned That Great Gulf That Existed Between the East Coast and the West Coast of America**
- > **But I Know About an Accomplishment That Was Even More Magnificent Than That**
- > **Because My Bible Says That God Sent His Only Son Jesus Christ to This Earth, and Jesus Lived a Sinless Life, and He Died on the Cross for Our Sins and He Rose Again on the Third Day**
- > **And by Doing So, Jesus Became Our “*Pontificat*” as the Writer of Hebrews Says; Jesus Became Our “*Bridgebuilder*”**

- > **Jesus Essentially Built a Bridge From Heaven to Earth, and He Spanned the Great Gulf That Existed Between God's Holiness and Man's Sinfulness (Repeat)**
- > **And as a Result, Oh, I Can't Help But Say *"Praise the Lord and Halellujah!"***
- > **God the Father Took My Sinful Life Away From Me, and He Replaced My Sinful Life With Jesus' Perfect and Sinless Life**
- > **And Because I Chose to Receive Jesus Christ as My Personal Lord and Savior by Faith, God the Father Immediately Imputed Jesus' Righteous Life to My Account**
- > **Now, I Will Grant You That Saving Over \$800 Dollars in Money and Over Five and Half Months in Time Crossing the United States Was a Magnificent Deal in 1869**
- > **But I Want You to Know That There is an Even Better Deal!**
- > **And This is Why It is Called *"The Great Exchange!"***
- > **And as a Royal Ambassador Representing My Majesty King Jesus Who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, I Have Been Instructed by Him to Say, *"I Have Got a Deal for You!"***
- > **And This is It, That You Can be Reconciled to God Simply by Placing Your Faith and Trust in Jesus Christ**
- > **The Work Has All Been Completed; a Bridge Between God and Man Has Been Built; and So, All You Need to do is Take Advantage of God's Great Offer**