

Making Friends with God — the Good News

Only those who rebel against the good news dwell in a dry land.

2 Cor 5:13 — “If we are beside ourselves, it is for God...” They thought that Paul was a little bit crazy.

Verses 13-15 — So when we were baptized, if we all died, we buried ourselves in Messiah and we were resurrected with Him.

Verses 16-17 — I guess it means we do not look at each other in an earthly way. We do not judge each other by the flesh, but as a new creation. We look at the good, the spirit, the gold in each other. We do not look and say, “Look at him, look at what he’s doing.” We do not regard one another according to the flesh anymore, by how good their performance is. *“We don’t look at Messiah according to the flesh anymore.”* Paul had looked at Messiah as just a worldly imposter who didn’t go along with his religion. *“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Yahshua ha Mashiach, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”* Now He has given us the ministry of making other people friends with God. Reconciliation is such a religious word. It means making friends. That is what ambassadors do, they make friends. So we are friends now through Yahshua. Verses 19-20 — *“God was in Messiah reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their sins against them. Now we are ambassadors (agents) for Messiah, as if God were pleading through us, ‘We implore you on Messiah’s behalf, be reconciled to God.’”* Don’t keep being an enemy to God — come on over.

Verse 21 — *“For God made Yahshua, who knew no sin, to become sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* People in the world have their own righteousness, but we have God’s righteousness. Abraham had God’s righteousness. Lot had his own.

I had sin, then Yahshua took the wrath God had for that sin and died on the cross with it, and now I do not have the wrath of God on me anymore. *“Whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. But whoever disobeys the good news, the wrath of God abides on Him”* (Jn 3:18). If we hear the good news and we do not believe it, we are already judged. Jn 3:36 — The wrath of God abides on me if I do not get it off of me.

So now we no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf. There is no need to hang onto it if you can get it off. He died for us. If He died for all, then He died for me and you. So we have no more excuse. We just have to live for Him now. That is the good news in a nutshell. Whoever calls on the name of Yahshua will be saved.

We are happy to be on the boat, keeping that boat in good shape. We’re happy just to be on board, to do anything. We don’t live for ourselves anymore. We only live for Him who died for us.

ha-emeq — I was thinking about the example we have in the word of God — the prophets and law in a nutshell, right there in the Bible. And there are so many millions of Bibles! They all say those same words: submitting yourself to one another, giving thanks always, deny yourself, take up your cross. Then you meet someone and he’ll tell you all about *Hari Krishna*, and he’s totally devoted. Then you’ll meet another man, a Christian who says he believes in Jesus. And he shows you his Bible. But the Christian is so amazing — he has a book and he doesn’t do what it says in it. And he says that it doesn’t really mean what it says. Whereas the *Krishna* devotee does EVERYTHING in his book, totally loyal to his false idol. So you can talk to a *Hari Krishna* devotee in a straightforward way because he can hear you. That’s how Barak was when he came. But for a Christian you have to stand on your head to get them to see that it’s simple, that it’s just like it says, right in a nutshell. The evil one has done a good trick to make it so complicated. But all you have to think of is a ship going by, and calling out, “Yahshua save me,” and giving thanks always, and submitting to one another, and that the rod drives away foolishness, and..., etc. If I was on the boat, I wouldn’t complain. Even if I didn’t mop the deck right and I got corrected, I’d just want to do it better. I’m not complicated enough to say I believe all these things but don’t really obey them.

Yoneq — It is like we are on a boat and we ARE going to the other side.