

WHY GOD IS SILENT

THE REIGN OF GOD'S GRACE

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation"

~ 2 Corinthians 5:19

1. Review

- a. Bad and wicked things continue unabated from the Judge of Heaven.
- b. When the Righteous Judge intervenes, no sinner can stand. They all die.
- c. God has intervened in the Bible with miracles to Israel that point to Christ.
- d. Christ has come and gone, Israel is fallen, miracles stopped – Acts 28:26-28
- e. That heaven is silent is no mystery. "Why" is the mystery... Rom 11:11,15, 25

2. The Great Change

- a. At Pentecost miracles were happening, Israel had the kingdom preached Acts 3:21-24
- b. Peter preached the coming of God's wrath, his restitution – Acts 2:16-20
- c. Paul preaches a gospel kept secret to all the world - Romans 16:25
- d. Paul preaches not wrath / judgment, but grace and peace to Gentiles – Rom 15:15-16

3. The Message of Reconciliation

- a. God is performing the ministry of reconciliation by his church - 2 Cor 5:17-18
- b. He was not imputing trespasses when Christ died, it was reconciliation – 2 Cor 5:19-21
- c. Grace: God died for enemies, his love commended toward the ungodly - Rom 5:6-10
- d. If he is not imputing sins – who should he judge? If all sin – who does he save?
- e. The only way the ungodly can be saved is if they live and believe the gospel Rom 5:1

4. The Reign of Grace to All

- a. Sin reigned under the law and all are condemned, but now... Rom 5:18-21
- b. Grace reigns to all (even the unrighteous) in this dispensation of grace – Eph 3:2
- c. We cannot obligate God to judge because of his mercy to all
- d. The work for salvation is done, there are no works needed – Eph 2:8-9
- e. *Doesn't God love the victims?* Yes, and commends his love to die for the criminal, too.
- f. Christ stands between us and certain judgment offering his finished work for salvation, not new miracles, and prosperity – Isa 30:18
- g. The silence of heaven is the mystery revealed, and is proof of God's reign of grace.

5. How We Respond to God's Grace

- a. How do we respond to innocent suffering?
- b. The most severe case of innocent suffering was the Son of God on the cross.
- c. The gospel is a testimony to all of God's love, justice, righteousness, and mercy
- d. He offers his greatest/clearest hope of salvation by grace – how do we respond?
- e. Do you condemn God, or will you be crucified with him? – Gal 2:20