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When we think of the Doctrine of Reconciliation, we think of man being "reconciled" to God. Reconciled to God's existence. Reconciled to the Lordship of Christ. Reconciled in terms of man's broken fellowship with God. This word, "reconciled," is often viewed by modern Christians as synonymous with "resigned." "I am reconciled to the fact that my sin has made me miserable so I guess I might as well accept Christ. Anything is better than this." But that is not the Doctrine of Reconciliation. We should not think this way. We should not allow Christians to think this way and we should not allow non-Christians to engage in this deception.

#### The Doctrine of Reconciliation begins with the Wrath of God.

"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience." (Ephesians 5:6)

Apart from the Doctrine of the Wrath of God, there is no need for the Doctrine of Reconciliation. All we would need would be the Doctrine of Settlement or Understanding or Apology. Man has sinned, God is not mad, just hurt, so man must take the high road, admit his mistakes and apologize to God. Man and God must come to an understanding--a proper settlement of their affairs made possible by Christ. This, however, is not the case. God is not simply hurt, God is angry and His fierce anger is going to be expressed through His wrath. This wrath is not going to go away. God will express His wrath. His wrath will be expressed in the body of Christ or in the body of the unbeliever, but it will be expressed. The sin of all mankind creates in God an anger and a wrath that is held in check only temporarily. By meditating upon the passages of Holy Scripture that speak to the wrath and anger of God, the Christian comes to a full understanding and appreciation of the Doctrine of Reconciliation. Christ did not simply get two parties together who were in disagreement or who were out of fellowship – man and God. Christ, by satisfying in His Body the wrath of God, made possible the Reconciliation of God to man. First, then, in this daily devotional series, you will find yourself meditating upon the anger and wrath of God, which, apart from Christ, would await you and which does await all unbelievers.

#### The Doctrine of Reconciliation Is Made Possible By The Substitutionary Sacrifice and Death of Christ.

For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; (1 Peter 3:18)

The next step in the Doctrine of Reconciliation is the Substitutionary Sacrifice of Christ. By this we mean that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, took our place when it comes to the just anger and wrath of God. All that you will meditate upon in the wrath of God passages, Jesus Christ took upon Himself as a Substitutionary Sacrifice. Millions upon millions will spend an eternity in the fires of Hell. The only reason we are not there with them is that Christ experienced the eternal judgment of Hell in His body on our behalf and, for not only us but every individual in Heaven. God's wrath did not simply go away when we became Christians. God did not cease to be angry at our sin. The wrath of God and the anger of God were satisfied through God's judgement of Christ on the cross. We are reconciled to God, not because through our magnanimity and good works we bring ourselves to God in an acceptable manner, but because Jesus Christ suffered the eternal Hell that was due for each and every sin we have and will ever commit. Jesus Christ took our sin upon Himself and then offered Himself up as a perfect Substitutionary Sacrifice for that sin. God's wrath, having been satisfied in the Body, by the Blood and by the Death of Jesus Christ is now reconciled to us. It is only by this that the Doctrine of Reconciliation is possible.

#### The Doctrine of Reconciliation

10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,
much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

(Romans 5:10-11)

Having fully understood the just wrath of God due our sins, having fully understood the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ on the cross – experiencing in His Body the wrath due our sins, we are now ready to meditate upon the passages of Scripture dealing with the Doctrine of Reconciliation. We are now able to understand the meaning of **Romans 5:11** And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Psalm 21:9
How does this passage relate to the theme?
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
passage a part of my Christian life?
DACCACE FOR MEDITATION, Latel 5.25
PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 5:25
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 34:1-10
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Jeremiah 23:18-20
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Zepheniah 2:1-3
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 2:5-11
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 2:1-3
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 5:6
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 3:5-7
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 3:36
How does this passage relate to the theme?
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 14:10, 11 & 19
How does this passage relate to the theme?
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 20:10, 14 & 15
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 5:6-10
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 1:10
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Thessalonians 5:9 & 10
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 52:14 & 15; 53:3-5
How does this passage relate to the theme?
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?
PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 53:8-10
How does this passage relate to the theme?
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Isaiah 53:11 & 12
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Peter 2:21-24
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Peter 3:18
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 12:27-33
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 2:3-6
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Corinthians 15:3 & 4
How does this passage relate to the theme?
When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me? Explain why:
How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
passage a part of my Christian life?
PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 4:2;
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 7:20 & 27
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Hebrews 9:14, 24-26
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How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this
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**THEME: The Doctrine of Reconciliation** 

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Romans 5:1-11
How does this passage relate to the theme?
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 5:18 & 19
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Corinthians 5:20 & 21
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**THEME: The Doctrine of Reconciliation** 

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Ephesians 2:14-16
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 1:19 & 20
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PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Colossians 1:21 & 22
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