

True Reconciliation Ev. Luke C., 1980  
The Paschal Plea of Paul the Apostle

Scripture: ~~(of Paul)~~ 2 Cor. 5 vs 16-21 (New English Bible)

Texts: 2 Cor. 5 vs. 18

conduct our worship

1. There is a special reason why we do our worship ~~this~~ Sunday since this Sunday the way in which we do.

The memory of 16 June 1976 & what happened in Senato on that day <sup>and the consequences it has for the whole SA</sup> will always remain with us as a nation

2. There is another reason why we are conducting our worship service <sup>this morning</sup> the way we are doing: many countries & churches in SA as well as in the world ~~are~~ are struggling to find answers to the issue of reconciliation & healing of <sup>their</sup> nation. But I'm not aware that in any other country in such a unique way on such a broad level so many agencies (govt., TRC, churches & many further, human rights <sup>are exposed</sup> agencies) are ~~so~~ so deeply involved as we ~~have~~ ~~in~~ SA crisis in SA (govt. --- --- )

3. But is this the deepest reason why we as S.A. churches are so involved? Because of June 16? Because of hearings of the TRC & what we see about them <sup>esp.</sup> Sunday evenings on TV?

If this is the <sup>real</sup> reason for our interest & involvement <sup>(2)</sup> then there is something seriously lacking in our Xt. faith & our understanding of the Gospel. <sup>and of Christ</sup>

~~his~~ his birth, his ministry, his suffering, his crucifixion, his resurrection <sup>In the central message & focus of Christ's message is what</sup>

Paul wishes to convey & explain to us in the passage of Scripture we have read: 2 Cor. 5:16-21:

God has sent his Son, J.C., to be the reconciling person (the mediator) & force between God & man

That was the central message of his whole ministry: he reconciled to God! (vs 20:

"we implore you: he reconciled to God!"

This is the glorious truth of the Gospel, of the life, the ministry, the death & the resurrection of Christ: he reconciled to God!

But what we ~~have~~ constantly have to remember

is that the <sup>crucial</sup> ~~test~~ test of reconciliation, the <sup>of his reconciliation to God</sup> proof of our sincerity <sup>is</sup> to be reconciled to

every brother & sister, every neighbour, every person

from whom we have become alienated or estranged - whomsoever he or she may be!

Images:  
Paul speaks  
on his  
knees  
before us

MB

MB

~~Healing~~

(3)

also ~~have~~  
So another truth which we have to remember is that lasting healing is only possible if we have been willing to be reconciled!

We hear so much to-day <sup>where</sup> ~~in~~ many SAs ~~and~~ ~~are~~ talking about the healing of the nation. It is a beautiful phrase: ~~he~~ ~~is~~ ~~it~~ reminds us of the healing of attitudes, of relations, of past ways. But do we realize that the only way in which the nation can be healed and its soul restored is through true reconciliation?

What does this <sup>promise</sup> appeal of Paul say to us as Christians, as churches, as SAs?

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~~Healing~~

Politically: Politically we need to become reconciled  
- Does not imply that we all need to belong to one political party or have only one political opinion -

Secondly: Economically <sup>apart from some parts like places where some</sup> <sup>is</sup> gap between rich & poor  
<sup>esp. when we get to the mid-... - white -</sup>

Thirdly: Culturally <sup>apart from some</sup> <sup>is</sup> "divided nation" -  
languages, culture, customs, traditions

Fourthly: Morally & Spiritually: Most difficult task - challenge to the Church

Fifthly: Personally: Call to every individual:  
anybody you need to be reconciled to?

- Your husband, wife?

- Your father, mother?

- Your son, daughter?

- Your family or friend?

The go, act, be reconciled if you wish to be healed!