

LOOKING BACK

ROMANS 5:9-11

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: Reconciliation is the “bringing together of two parties that are estranged or in dispute. Jesus Christ is the one who brings together God and man, with salvation as the result of the union. Reconciliation basically means ‘change’ or ‘exchange.’ The idea is of a change of relationship, an exchange of antagonism for good will, enmity for friendship.” Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, p. 1368.

AT THE ENEMY—which was you! You may have been a “good” person, well thought of by your peers, but without Christ’s righteousness your goodness to God was only filthy rags. But even though you were God’s enemy, you were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son. (**Romans 5:9, 10, Romans 8:7, Colossians 1:21, 22, fn 1:21, Isaiah 64:6, fn 64:6, Ephesians 2:3, 4, fn 2:3**) *When did you discover that at one time in your life you were an enemy of God?*

AT THE INITIATOR—In usual reconciliation the injured party does not initiate restoration of relationship. But God, the Injured, provided His Son’s blood, reconciling and giving you a personal relationship with Christ. God not only initiated your salvation with reconciliation, He keeps you safe from threats to your personal relationship with Him. (**Romans 5:10, Romans 5:6-8, fn 5:6, Romans 5:1, fn 5:1, John 15:16, fn 15:16, John 14:18, fn 14:18, John 10:25-30, fn 10:28, 29**) *How was God the Injured and the Initiator in your salvation?*

AT THE CROSS—When you look at your past sinful life, look at it through the lens of the cross. See Christ shedding His blood for the forgiveness of your sins, and look no further. Your old life stopped at the cross, and at the cross your new life began. You know that you have received reconciliation, and now there is no guilt—just rejoicing in God through Jesus and a desire to tell others this great news. (**Romans 5:11, fn 5:11, II Corinthians 5:14-21, fn 5:18, 19, fn 5:20, fn 5:21, Romans 6:6-11, fn 6:6, fn 6:11, Philippians 4:4-7, fn 4:4**) *When you look back at your sinful life before Christ, why is it important to look at it through the lens of the cross?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshiping together.