

## The Order of Worship

Opening Song	I Will Sing of My Redeemer
A Prayer of Praise	Highlight Attribute <i>Righteousness</i>
Scripture Reading	II Cor 5:18-21
A Prayer for the Nations*	Somalia
Affirmation of Faith	
Congregational Song	How Deep the Father's Love
A Prayer for the Lost	<i>Who's Your One?</i>
Congregational Song	Grace that is Greater
Sermon:	II Cor 5:18-21

It is impossible to publicly admit your Christian faith in Somalia, and "church life" is non-existent. Islam is considered a crucial part of Somali identity, and if any Somali is suspected of having converted to Christianity, they are in great danger. Members of their family, clan or community will harass, intimidate or even kill them. Women may be raped and forcibly married.

Christians are also in danger from al-Shabab, a violent group that advocates Shariah (Islamic law) as the basis for regulating all aspects of life. Christians from a Muslim background are considered a "high-value target" by al-Shabab, who have often executed believers on the spot, when discovered.

If a Christian man is killed or abducted, his whole family suffers, as the man is usually the breadwinner. The remaining family are often left unprotected and seen as a stain on the community. (opendoorsusa.org)

## Prayer Requests

Mary Ann Cooper	Barry Wilson
Josh Howard	Rita Stewart
Teachers/Schools	Danette Roberson
Shirley Pruett	Frank White
Situation in Afghanistan	

## Announcements

### **Fundraisers** (See Margie Thompson for Details)

Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	Casserole/Bake Sale
Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Rummage Sale
Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	Farmer's Market
Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Cookie Walk
Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chili Lunch
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Valentine Cookie Cake

### **Explorer's Bible Study**

Tuesday Mornings and Wednesday Evenings

**The Brethren of Emory** (See Joel Barrett)

**Choir will begin in September.**

## II Corinthians 5:18-21

### I. We Have a \_\_\_\_\_.

If we are reconciled, we have a ministry. The very word, ministry, is wide open to possibilities. We actually get the word "deacon" from the Greek word diakonos (diakonoV). There are multiple possibilities for ministry but it involves two components: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. As a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, having a ministry is not optional.

There's also one other matter involved here. Notice the text says "the ministry of reconciliation." A ministry's focus, its purpose is reconciliation. We must understand that God left the church on the planet, primarily, for two things: worship and \_\_\_\_\_. Ephesians 4:11-12. If this is true, then every single thing that Emory does **must** have its foundation and laser focus on the worship of the Great High King of Heaven and \_\_\_\_\_.

One other thing the text tells us is that He has \_\_\_\_\_ within us the \_\_\_\_\_ of reconciliation. If we have been given the ministry and word of reconciliation, then, consequently,

### II. We Are \_\_\_\_\_.

An ambassador serves the One who appointed her. She never speaks on her own, never shares her own opinion.

She is both the messenger and the representative of her King. She deliver's His message and that message is "Be reconciled to God." That message should reverberate throughout everything we do. Notice the two other words connected with ambassador, of Christ. The phrase could mean that I am an ambassador that is owned by Christ, focused upon Christ, a Christ-kind of ambassador, an ambassador appointed by Christ.

### III. We Have Become the Righteousness of God.

Paul explains here what reconciliation really is. God, in His mercy, does not "charge" us for our sins. In fact, God "charged" our sins to the account of Jesus and declared the transaction reconciled. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ that we might be \_\_\_\_\_. We receive righteousness, eternal life, hope, grace, love, mercy, ministry, purpose, the fellowship of the saints, while Jesus received our sin.

Questions:

1. What is my ministry?
2. Does my ministry have as its foundation and mission, evangelism?
3. Does my life reflect a gratitude to Jesus for my reconciliation so that others can see it and hear it?

