



Introduction

No one can see God's " _____ " and _____.

God wears _____.

God " _____ " himself in a _____ and in _____.

God chooses to use _____ to reveal his _____.

Session Objective

🎯 To discuss God's gracious _____ to use Christians as His _____ of salvation to the people of this world.

Causes of God's Plan for Salvation¹

Principal Cause

- Triune God
- **1 Corinthians 12:3** – No can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the _____

Impulsive Cause

- Inward: Grace and mercy
- Outward: Misery of human beings and merits of Christ
- **1 Timothy 2:3,4** – God our Savior ... wants all people to be _____ and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Instrumental Cause

- Gospel in Word and Sacrament (supernaturally and psychologically)
- **Romans 10:17** – Faith comes from hearing the _____, and the _____ is heard through the _____ about Christ.

Ministerial Cause

- Agents who utilize the instrumental cause
- **1 Corinthians 9:22** - I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means _____ might save some.

Titus 3:5 – [God] saved us (_____ cause), not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy (_____ cause). He saved us through the washing of rebirth (_____ cause) and renewal by the Holy Spirit (_____ cause).

Where is the *ministerial cause* of God's plan of salvation in this passage?

¹ Johann Andreas Quenstedt, *The Church*, ed. Luther Peollot (Malone, TX: Repristination Press, 1999) 10-12.

Identify 3 “ditches” if one stresses the instrumental cause over the ministerial cause.

1

2

3

Identify 3 “ditches” if one stresses the ministerial cause over the instrumental cause.

1

2

3

Explain: God has given us a great *privilege* and a great *responsibility* by using us as his agents of bringing his Message of Salvation to the world.

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Message and Ministry of Reconciliation

Underline examples of the instrumental cause of God's plan of salvation.

Circle examples of the **ministerial** cause of God's plan of salvation.

5:11 Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience.

5:12 We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart.

5:13 If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

5:14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

5:15 And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

5:16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

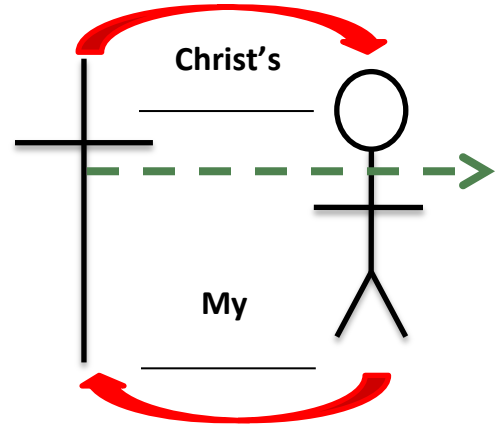
5:19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain.

6:2 For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.



Last week we identified the difference between God's *revealed will* and his *hidden will*. Apply those truths to the fact that God calls us his "ambassadors." (*Think about this "activity" in the area of individuals and of congregations.*)

CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS

God's Revealed Will	God's Hidden Will

Paul shows _____ in these words. (6:2)

Brainstorm ideas to intentionally connect Christ's Gospel to the people of your area.

1. Individually ... What can YOU do?

2. Congregationally ... What can your FELLOW AMBASSADORS do?

Further Study: Rev. Jonathan Hein's essay "[Treasure in Jars of Clay: The Synergy Between the Instrumental and Ministerial Causes in God's Plan of Salvation.](#)"

Thank you for studying God's Word.

God bless you as you serve as Christ's ambassadors.