



# 2020 Bible Advocate Themes

Annual Theme: The Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:14 — 6:2

In one of the most profound and exciting passages of Scripture, Paul explains to the church what God has done for us in Christ. Reconciliation restores relationship and is nothing less than “new creation” and the ministry of the new covenant. It is all a gift of God through Jesus Christ. But remarkably, God has committed this ministry of reconciliation to us. Together, we are workers with God, ambassadors for Christ, praying, “Be reconciled to God!” even as we are being made the righteousness of God in Him. In our deeply divided world, is there a more important message? What a responsibility!

It’s humbling. We can’t be His ministers of reconciliation if we aren’t already new creatures reconciled to God in Christ. Therefore, the six BA issues of 2020 will explore the details of this divine ministry, and we invite you to join the effort. Our editorial team is looking for content rich in biblical insight, personal testimony, and practical application that will inspire and equip the church to bring the reconciling peace of Christ to a bitterly broken world. Take a look at the subthemes, deadlines, and basic descriptions of each issue and consider contributing to *the ministry*.

— Jason Overman, Editor

**January-February: Reconciled** - 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19 (vv. 14, 15, 21)  
— *What God has accomplished for us in Christ*  
*Article ideas:* Personal and biblical reconciliation stories; word study on key terms (like *reconcile*, *atonement*); the scope of peacemaking in Christ and the church. Spotlight on *Ephesians 2*  
**Submission deadline: October 14, 2019**

**March-April: New Creation** - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (vv. 14, 15)  
— *Our new life as new creations in Christ*  
*Article ideas:* Personal and biblical *new creation* stories; word study on key terms (like *creation*, *life*); practical examples of how the love of Christ compels us. Spotlight on *Revelation 21*  
**Submission Deadline: December 13, 2019**

**May-June: The Ministry** - 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19 (cf. 3:3-9; 4:1; 6:3, 4)  
— *God’s gift of a new covenant in Christ*  
*Article ideas:* Personal and biblical *new covenant* stories; word study on key terms (like *ministry*, *covenant*); the new and better promises of God in Christ. Spotlight on *2 Corinthians 3*  
**Submission Deadline: February 14, 2020**

**July-August: Ambassadors** - 2 Corinthians 5:20  
— *God’s ministers of reconciliation for Christ*  
*Article ideas:* Personal and biblical *witness* stories; word study on key terms (like *ambassador*, *message*); how God’s reconciliation addresses broken relationships of every kind. Spotlight on *Philemon*  
**Submission Deadline: April 13, 2020**

**September-October: Becoming** - 2 Corinthians 5:21 (v. 15; 3:18)  
— *Being made the righteousness of God in Christ*  
*Article ideas:* Personal and biblical *sanctification* stories; word study on key terms (like *righteousness of God*); process of Spirit transformation from glory to glory. Spotlight on *Romans 8*  
**Submission Deadline: June 15, 2020**

**November-December: Together** - 2 Corinthians 6:1, 2 (vv. 14-21; 4:1-4a)  
— *Workers with God in Christ*  
*Article ideas:* Personal and biblical *us/we* stories; word study on key terms (like *ministers*, *workers*); themes of team ministry, blameless ministry, day of salvation. Spotlight on *Ephesians 4*  
**Submission Deadline: August 14, 2020**