

"Christ-Centered Preaching" (Part 2)

In Luke 24:25-27 and 24:44-49 Jesus claims to be the main point and the meaning of the Scriptures – “they are written about Me” (v44). He was teaching His disciples from the beginning to read the Scriptures – all of them – with Himself at the center. Why? He is “the Alpha and the Omega”... and all the letters in between! His “letters” make up the words that form the sentences that tell the story of the whole gospel of God, “the whole message of this Life.” (Acts 5:20) Christ-centered teaching and preaching, reading and studying, must greet Him as Lord of every passage.

He is our inerrant, infallible Word Who fully “exegetes” God (John 1:18). Only in Him do we ever see the full and accurate picture of God, of man, of God living in and through a man. There are no pieces or portions of God outside of Jesus Christ. (Heb 1:1-3; John 1:1ff; Col 2:9-10) In the Bible, the Son of God is everywhere – He is before creation (Eph 1:4), He is at creation (Col 1:16), He is sustaining creation (Col 1:17), He is redeeming creation (Col 1:20-22), He sits on the throne of a new heaven and a new earth (Rev 21:5). Yes, Jesus Christ the Lord “is all, and in all” (Col 3:11). He is at the center of everything that pleases God (Col 1:19).

The Person and the Work of Jesus Christ is, therefore, the only proper Center of all our proclamation. We learn to ask, “What truth, what function, what role does this text serve in the redemptive, rectifying, regenerative story of the gospel according to God?” It may be predictive of Christ (Is 53:10-12). It may serve as a pattern, a “type” of Christ (Gen 14:17-20; Ps 110). It may present an imperfect picture of a perfect Savior (the Exodus!). And for sure, every Old Testament story of human inadequacy is a “pointer” to Jesus Christ as our full and perfect Savior.

Christ and Christ alone is the only “Highway of Holiness” that we travel in order to walk in a living oneness with God. Non-Christ centered teaching can only lead people into the “ditches” of legalism or license (or variations of such) – both of which land people in some sort of worldly or religious despair. It is imperative that we diagram every theological statement to make sure that our subject is Jesus Christ (plus nothing) (Jo 14:6). We must continuously test everything by Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:20; Col 3:17) We must forever see Him as our relationship to all things. (Col 3:4) He is the Center of all things Christian!



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Greetings

I have been hopscotching around the country for 35+ years happily proclaiming the liberating awareness of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Note that I did not say "happily" hopscotching! On my most recent "hopscotch" to New York I experienced one of my all time, least enjoyable travel experiences - 14 separate delayed flight times, 1 outright cancellation, a 2:00 a.m. rental car adventure, and even an "Emergency situation - shelter in place and prepare to evacuate the airport!" event in Syracuse.

I'm not looking for sympathy or fishing for affirmation about "paying the price so others go free." I simply want to remind you, "Every revelation must be tested!" Any word from God we receive is mostly an opinion until it is brought to the anvil of truth and hammered out in a real-life situation. That's where we find out if God really is "What" we need and if He actually knows "when" we need it!

My flesh flapped. My soul was swinging. My body was weary. (See John 12:27) And what about my spirit? "Kept by the power of God" (I Pet 1:5), "sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit" (Eph 1:13), "led by the Spirit of God" (Ro 8:14), "set against the flesh" (Ga 5:17), "dead to sin and alive to God" (Ro 6:11), "able to live according to the will of God" (I Pet 4:6).

Theological abstracts or actual realities? Bible words or living words? Opinions or transformative truth? Only my free choice to authorize one or the other to interpret and guide will ever let me know. Oh blessed tension!

Calendar

AUGUST

13 Alachua Study


SEPTEMBER


21-28 Fraser, CO (Men's Advent. Week - full)


OCTOBER


25-27 Louisville, KY (502-664-5622)

Praise & Prayer

 Simplicity of devotedness to Christ

 The sufficiency of Christ in the "all things" of life

 For our pastors and teachers to find their home in a Christ-centered awareness of the Bible

 For the courage to resist "the lure of appearances" and find our home in the unseen realities of God