

## "Christ-Centered Preaching" (Part 3)

We have said so far in this line of "Christ-Centered Preaching" columns that Jesus Christ the Lord is the context and contents for all Christian preaching and teaching. We have also affirmed that Jesus Himself claims to be the main point, the full meaning of the Scriptures. He is our inerrant, infallible word – He "exegetes" God for us. We will never come close to an accurate picture of living "Christianly" until we get to Jesus (check the previous two newsletters for numerous Bible passages.)

The Word of God – Jesus Christ Himself – is our indwelling travelling companion for our daily living, and moving, and having our being (Acts 17:28). In the "allness" of our daily lives, He is God's word, God's message to us. It is imperative that we never push Him to the margins, the periphery of our lives, but, rather, keep Him at the center. This is what fellowship, communion, abiding is about – referencing everything to Christ. For whatever His relationship is to a "thing" is my relationship to that "thing" since He is my life (Col 3:4).

Christ-centered teaching will instruct us to test every option before us by Jesus Christ (Eph 4:20; Heb 3:1). Whatever cannot be oriented to Christ will have a disorienting effect on our lives. Whatever cannot be integrated into Christ will yield disintegrative results. Whatever cannot be solved in Christ will be dissolving to our plans. I believe this is why Apostle Paul wrote the Colossians telling them to make sure the word of Christ was dwelling in them, that the peace of Christ was ruling in them, that the name of Christ was their standard for valuation, and that God's love demonstrated in Christ was their adornment for all their relationships (Col 3:14-17).

Christology – the personal knowing of Christ (Jo 17:3) – is the center of all our Christian "practice". There is no Christian teaching, no Christian discipline, no Christian behavior that does not have its primary reference to Jesus Christ. Any teaching, any discipline, any behavior that disregards Him or does not have its origins in Him... IS NOT CHRISTIAN! Learn to greet Him as Lord of every Bible passage, King of every day, Sufficiency for every need, Solution for every dilemma – see Him as our relationship to all things. And this, as my brother Matt Danuser says, is how "God moves us from theological awareness to an operational oneness." Then Jesus finds His expression in and through and as you and me!



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## Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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## Greetings

From time to time it is important to us to tell you how grateful we are to God and to you for your many expressions of personal support all these many years. It is no exaggeration to say that our original dream/vision/hope to establish a "ministry" that freely and fully proclaims the liberating awareness of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" has vastly exceeded those original thoughts and ideas.

We have been privileged to travel throughout the country - from Oregon to Maine, from Florida to New Mexico, from Wisconsin to Louisiana (and so many places in between) - to proclaim the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are ours in Christ. Pastors conferences, marriage and family retreats, local church renewals, men's adventure weeks, university and campus ministries - all these and many other "forms" for sharing this edifying message have been our privilege. Many discipleship, mentoring, and spiritual formation relationships have developed.

Each and all have come into being without any "marketing" or self-inviting approaches. Each and all have been offered without charge or cost for travel, time, or services rendered. Without you and your personal encouragement, you and your heartfelt prayers, you and your God-given wisdom, you and your financial support, none of this could have taken place.

So, thank you, thank you, thank you! We are thankful for God's love through you, Christ's power in you, the Holy Spirit's gifts as you. Thank you for being God's "you" - God's precious assets for the Kingdom's sake. It is a delight to be co-laborers with Him and with you in this part of our eternal journey!

## Calendar





### SEPTEMBER

1	1 <sup>st</sup> Baptist Starke, FL
10	Alachua Study
21-28	Fraser, CO (Men's Advent. Week - full)
30	Ocala Study

### OCTOBER

25-27	Louisville, KY (502-664-5622)
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## Praise & Prayer

-  God's faithfulness through His cooperative agents
-  God's sufficient supply for His purposes
-  Christ-centered teaching and living in His church
-  A harvest of Christ-Life from the sowing of His seeds of Truth