

# Christ and Him Crucified

April 24, 2011 – Pastor Dr. Ronnie Wolfe

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1 Cor. 2:2 *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

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## I. THE NEED FOR THIS VERSE OF SCRIPTURE

- A. Corinth, a local church, had departed from the simplicity of the Gospel and were divided.
  - 1. 1 Cor 11:18 *For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.*
  - 2. 1 Cor. 1:11 – ... *there are contentions among you*
  - 3. 1 Cor 3:3 *For ye are yet carnal: for whereas [there is] among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*
  - 4. 1 Cor. 5:1 -- *...there is fornication among you*
  - 5. 1 Cor. 6:5 – ... *Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you?*
  - 6. 1 Cor. 11:19 – ...*For there must be also heresies among you*
  - 7. 1 Cor. 15:12 – They say ... *there is no resurrection of the dead?*
- B. With these problems, there is a need to get back to the basic concept of the Gospel, not a complicated, theological, intellectual Gospel, but a plain and simple Gospel.

## II. THE NEED FOR JUDGMENT (Determination – KRINO)

- A. The Greek word for “determined” is the word KRINO, and it is the common word for “judge.”
- B. There must be a judgment call in a man’s preaching, and that preaching must be prioritized according to need of a particular church.
- C. This word can also mean “to choose.”
- D. There were so many problems at Corinth that Paul determined (judged) that he would know nothing but Jesus Christ and him crucified. He chose to preach only Jesus Christ and him crucified.
- E. It had come to this, and certainly it may have come to this in our own age.
  - 1. We have been so bathed in doctrine (and you know that I am in favor of preaching doctrine), that we are becoming stale in our understanding of the simplicity and of the power of the Gospel.
  - 2. 2 Cor 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*
  - 3. This word “simplicity” does not mean childish or of poor quality. It simply means “singularity.”

## III. THE PROPER EMPHASIS

- A. In simplicity we put our emphasis on that which is most important, and Jesus Christ is of utmost importance in Scripture.

- B. Every scripture in one way or another points either toward Christ or back to Christ.
- C. He is the focal point of our attention when reaching, learning, teaching, or preaching the Bible.
- D. Jesus Christ is the entire reason for the written word, because it is a reflection of him and a pronouncement of him, a proclamation of him from everlasting to everlasting and forever.
  - 1. The first verse of the Bible declares him, for he is God.
  - 2. Genesis 3:15 proclaims him as the seed.
  - 3. In Exodus he is seen first as our Passover -- Exod 12:11 - - 1 Cor 5:7 *Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:*
  - 4. Then in Exodus he is revealed as our atonement – Exod. 29:36
  - 5. In Numbers we see him as the brazen serpent, hanging there on a pole, slain in the presence of Israel, so that they could simply “look and live.” Numbers 21:9 *And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*
  - 6. In Deuteronomy he is the prophets that is to come like unto Moses: Deut. 18:15 *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;*
  - 7. In Isaiah he is the Servant -- Isa 53:11 *He shall see of the travail of his soul, [and] shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*
  - 8. In Daniel he is the Prince -- Da 9:25 *Know therefore and understand, [that] from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince [shall be] seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*
  - 9. In Matthew he is King; in Mark he is Servant; in Luke he is Son of man; in John he is the Son of God.
  - 10. ... and we could go on and on about this.

#### IV. PREACHING JESUS

- A. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God – Joh 20:31
- B. Jesus is the Lord – 1 Cor. 12:3
- C. Jesus is the Christ – 1 John 2:22
- D. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy – Rev. 19:10
- E. Jesus is the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world – John 1:29
- F. Jesus is Lord – Ac 10:36 *The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)*
- G. Jesus is Potentate, King of kings, and Lord of lords – 1 Tim. 6:15
- H. Jesus is “all in all” – Eph. 1:15-23
- I. Jesus is Savior -- Acts 13:23 *Of this man’s seed hath God according to [his] promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:*
- J. Jesus is the Messiah (the anointed one) – Luke 4:18 *The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal*

*the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

- K. And there are many more names that refer to Jesus in the Bible.
- L. Preaching Jesus is my full-time job. I cannot preach another Messiah. It must be Jesus, our Savior and Lord, the Son of God.
- M. Evidently Corinth had forgotten this, and they were quickly leaving their first love. Remember that the book of Revelation accuses the church at Ephesus of this very sin.
- N. This is why Paul determined that he would not preach anything among them except Jesus.

## V. PREACHING CHRIST

- A. Christ means “anointed one,” or “promised one, or “the one who is to come.”
- B. The Old Testament scriptures looked forward to his coming.
  - 1. Genesis 3:15
  - 2. Deut. 18:15
  - 3. Daniel 9:25 (Messiah), etc.
- C. There were other men named Jesus. It is the same word as Joshua.
- D. But we do not preach another Jesus, have not received another spirit, or accepted another gospel.
  - 1. 2 Cor. 11:4 *For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or [if] ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with [him].*
- E. There are actually even in our day, as I mentioned last week in the message, many Christs, which are actually antichrists.
- F. Paul’s intention here in his judgment was for the members of the Corinth church to focus their sights on Jesus Christ, and him only, the Christ, the promised One, the Savior, the Prince, the Lord.
- G. We have become peripheral in our vision: we are looking at other things.
  - 1. Many look to holidays
  - 2. Many look to special occasions.
  - 3. Many look to interesting speakers or popular music
  - 4. Many look to self-help
  - 5. Many even look for an argument or an approval of their own theology.
  - 6. But our emphasis must be on Christ, the only Christ, and our only Savior.

## VI. PREACHING HIM CRUCIFIED

- A. What is it primarily that we are to preach about Christ?
- B. Well, it is his crucifixion.
- C. “There they crucified him” – Luke 23:33 *And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*
- D. This is our message

1. Acts 13:28-31 *And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. 29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. 30 But God raised him from the dead: 31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.*
- E. Crucifixion means death. The Gospel stated in 1 Cor. 15:1-4 says, “and that he died.”
- F. Rom. 6:10 *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

## VII. THE LESSONS WE LEARN

- A. We learn that Jesus, the Son of God, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords, the alpha and the omega, the one who is from everlasting to everlasting, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, the Savior of sinners, died.
  1. He lay in a borrowed tomb, because he needed it only temporarily.
  2. The world went on about their business, but the disciples gathered together and prayed, not knowing what to do without their Master.
  3. While his body was in the tomb, Jesus was in Heaven with his Father.
  4. When the time had come for him to be raised from the dead, God brought life back into Jesus’ body, and he arose, and he is alive today, having been seen by hundreds at one time.
  5. After many days Jesus ascended back to Heaven to be with his Father in his body so that he can be our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. He is making intercession for us so that we can never fall from our salvation and so that we can be delivered to Heaven when we die or when he comes in the clouds to take his children out of the world.
- B. We learn, also, that we must be about our Father’s business, serving Jesus Christ, believing in him always.
- C. We learn that Jesus died for sinners 1 Tim. 1:15 *This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*
  1. That is why we preach Jesus Christ and him crucified as our primary message.
- D. We learn that, with the crucifixion, comes an invitation.
  1. Mt 11:28 *Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
  2. Ro 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*
  3. He died for the ungodly - Rom. 5:6
  4. He died for us - Rom. 5:8
  5. He died for our sins - 1 Cor. 15:3

## VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. So this is our message – Jesus Christ and him crucified.
- B. It is preached unto you as it was to Corinth; now what will you do with the message?