

The Supremacy of Preaching Christ Himself

by Bryan Anthony

The sermon emphasizes the importance of preaching Christ Himself, rather than just speaking about Him superficially, in order to lead to a higher vision of Jesus Christ and true proclamation.

Scripture: John 14:6, Acts 8:5, Romans 3:25, 1 Corinthians 1:23, 1 Corinthians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:5, Galatians 6:14, Colossians 1:27, 1 Peter 2:24

Topics: "Christ Centrality", "Gospel Preaching"

Description

Bryan Anthony preaches on the essentiality of focusing solely on Jesus Christ and His crucifixion in all aspects of preaching and ministry. He emphasizes that all other teachings, doctrines, or religions fall short of the glory of God and the salvational reality found only in Christ. Anthony highlights the missionary message of Christ as the propitiation for our sins and the need for a radical jealousy for Christ to be glorified in true proclamation.

Transcript

"For while I was with you I resolved to know nothing except Jesus the Messiah, and Him crucified." -1 Cor. 2.2

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them." -Acts 8.5

Every true preaching will lead its hearers to a higher vision of Jesus Christ, and the centrality and supremacy of His cross. When we set up camp around superfluities or even biblical doctrines, however crucial they may be, yet fail to proclaim them in a manner that points the hearer Christ-ward, we fail in the high calling of true proclamation.

Nearly every religion on the earth has some measure of light and truth; some paradigm or thought that could be beneficial for living. But they all fall short of the glory of God, they do not impart life, and not one of them can deliver a salvational reality. Only the proclamation of "Christ, and Him crucified" brings to bear the truth of God, for "there is no other name given under heaven by which men can be saved."

No other supposed faith can hold a candle to the glory of the Man, Christ Jesus, and none of them can answer the ancient problem of mankind; namely, the universal dilemma of depravity and sin. To preach Jesus in the apostolic sense is not merely to give a "Roman's Road to Salvation" presentation. It is to declare things which "angels long to look into," the mystery of God as the merciful Judge, and the

remarkable desire of Jesus Christ to be reconciled and related to those who believe. Only the Gospel reveals the eternal God as He is, and only the Gospel deals with the issue of sin.

The missionary message is the limitless significance of Jesus Christ as the propitiation for our sins, and a missionary is one who is soaked in that revelation.

The key to the missionary message is the remissionary aspect of Christ's life, not His kindness and His goodness, and His revealing of the Fatherhood of God; the great limitless significance is that He is the propitiation for our sins.

A missionary is one who is wedded to the charter of His Lord and Master, he has not to proclaim his own point of view, but to proclaim the Lamb of God.

(Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest, October 15th selection)

Missionary work, ministries, movements, or "revivals" that stray from the proclamation of "Christ, and Him crucified" will ultimately fade into nullity. Even if they flourish numerically, they will fade in the age to come. "That which is born of flesh is flesh," and only the foundation of Jesus Himself will endure to the glory of God. He must be the center, the nexus, the capstone of our proclamation and vision. Even other necessary biblical views will fade into nothingness unless they are postured in such a way as to lead us to "Christ, and Him crucified." We need not to set forth our "own view, but to proclaim the Lamb of God."

We are struggling back to God, and that is the peculiar thing that characterizes our own ministry. Instead of being occupied with the formalisms and superfluities, our endeavor is to come back under the light of the Spirit of God, to the real truths of God; to have them settled down in our hearts, branded upon our souls, and stamped upon our conscience, that we may walk in truth and power and strength as servants of God.

-John G. Lake

A man may preach about eschatology, the issue of Israel, divine healing, or even the cross itself, without preaching Jesus Christ. If it is only categorical and canned as a message, he may even expound on 1 Corinthians 2.2 without actually preaching "Christ, and Him crucified."

In turn, a man sent by the Lord will expound on the same subjects in such a way that it leads to the centrality and glorification of Jesus Christ in the heart of the Church. Everything depends on whether or not the proclaimer is ascribing the glory to God in his own soul. If we are puffed up about knowledge, wanting to be clever, hoping to receive a certain calculated response from our hearers, we are disqualified from preaching Jesus Christ. Our own souls must be ever and always ascribing glory to the Lamb of God, or all our speech becomes suspect and dubious.

Thus, a radical and total jealousy for Christ Himself to be glorified is at the heart of true proclamation. Philip preached Jesus; which is to say, he didn't only speak of Him, but his proclamation was an actual conveyance of the Person and work of Christ Himself. Something of the substance of the Lord was transmitted to the hearers, and salvation ensued immediately. For Paul it was the same reality, and even the prophets of old preached Christ in this manner, though their subject matter was not as descriptive.

We need to see to the restoration of preaching Christ Himself, and not merely speaking of Him in a superficial or skin-deep manner. Down to the "marrow" of the soul, we must be infused with an active

jealousy for the glory of Jesus Christ. Preaching and living from that place is preaching Christ indeed.

Have I "resolved to know nothing except Jesus the Messiah, and Him crucified," or am I frolicking on the periphery of Christian theology and thought? He must be the center, dear saints. The world shall be in want of a true proclamation of the Gospel unless we give Him the preeminent place.

The more the Church holds to its central message- Jesus Christ Himself- the more effective it is.

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/bryan-anthony/the-supremacy-of-preaching-christ-himself/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net