

TEACH AND PREACH JESUS CHRIST

Sometimes we tend to assume certain things when teaching God's word to others. However, anyone who has studied with others almost any at all will attest to the fact that most people, even those who have considered themselves Christians for many years, have very little actual knowledge of the Bible. I have personally studied with someone over seventy five years old who claims she was saved when she was twelve years old, but cannot find the various books of the New Testament. Never assume someone knows as much as you might think they know. Now, it is true that most of the time we will have to assume some things, otherwise we would have to start every study with proving the existence of God. In most cases, people already believe in God and in our society, most of those who claim Christianity as their religion believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. However, after coming to an agreement that the word of God is to be the absolute authority in all matters concerning serving God, a brief review of the deity and son-ship of Jesus Christ is a good place to continue, for after all, God's word teaches that it is Christ who is the authority in this age (Matt. 17:5; Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1:1-2).

Each topic can and should naturally follow the one before. Faith in Christ Jesus as the Son of God should be followed with teaching on the one true church, which Christ built (Matt. 16:18), over the which Christ is the head (Col. 1:18) and of which He is the saviour (Eph. 5:23). Following a satisfactory understanding of the church that the Son of God built, a natural following topic would be "how to get into that institution that Christ built, over the which He is head and into which all the saved are added. Thus, a study of the plan of salvation. Naturally, this leads to a need to study how one is supposed to live as a child of God, including such things as worship, work and purity of life.

The apostle Paul said, "But we preach Christ crucified..." (I Cor. 1:23). Just a few verses later he said, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). Later he said, "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake" (II Cor. 4:5). Yet, because all those topics listed in the previous paragraph are a part of teaching and preaching Jesus Christ, he taught them as well.

Let us never cease to teach Jesus Christ as the Son of God, but let us not fail to teach the rest of the gospel either.

Robert

LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

When many of the Lord's disciples went back from following Him, He asked His apostles, "Will ye also go away?". Peter's answer was, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:66-68). Now, that's a good question; if we do not go to Jesus, to whom shall we go? Jesus Himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). As Peter stood before Annas the high priest and others of the same stripe, he told them concerning Jesus Christ of Nazareth, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

There is no doubt about the place where salvation can be found. The Bible tells us clearly. Paul wrote, "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain **the salvation which is in Christ Jesus** with eternal glory" (II Tim. 2:10--emphasis mine, RCO). The apostle John wrote, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, **and this life is in his Son**" (I John 5:11--emphasis mine, RCO). There is no salvation, no eternal life outside of Jesus Christ. Salvation is "in" Jesus Christ.

It would behoove us then to know how to get into Christ and then follow those instructions. Writing to the Romans, the apostle Paul said, "Know ye not, that so many of us **as were baptized into Jesus Christ** were baptized into his death?" (Rom. 6:3--emphasis mine, RCO). And then, to the Galatian brethren Paul wrote, "For as many of you as **have been baptized into Christ** have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27--emphasis mine, RCO). Multitudes have made and make the claim that they have eternal salvation while never having been baptized into Jesus Christ. Most have been baptized at some time or another, but not "into Jesus Christ". They believe that they were saved before baptism and then baptized as some outward sign of their already received salvation. If that were the case, then they were saved outside of Jesus Christ, since baptism is the means of getting "into" Christ.

Now let us go back to our question, "To whom shall we go?". He who has rejected the God revealed method of getting into Christ has, no matter what they may claim, determined that they could have salvation without going to the one and only source of salvation to get it. To whom shall we go? To Jesus Christ and we do that by being baptized into Christ and then abiding in Him!

RCO