

Labor Day Conference 2010

Subject: Christ, Christ, Christ

Message 3: Christ - The One We Gain By Counting All Things to Be Loss

- I. A healthy believer appreciates the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. In Philippians 3:8 the Greek word for excellency is *huperecho* (to excel, surpass). According to the Greek grammar here, this phrase refers to the knowledge of Christ in two ways - that its value is exceedingly great, and that its value is continually increasing.
- II. Christ - God's Anointed One. He is:
 - A. The Accomplisher and Executor of God's divine economy. Without Christ, no one could have God and His economy.
 - B. The all-inclusive One; His riches are unsearchable. Without Christ, all things are vain, temporal and imperfect (Eph. 1:23, 3:8).

"Him who fills all in all... this grace was given. that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."
 - C. The preeminent One; the Alpha and the Omega of all positive things. Without Christ, there would be no value for our existence and living (Col. 1:18, Rev. 22:13).

"And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence...I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."
 - D. The Head and the body; the centrality and the universality. The present Christ should be the - content, the reality, the operation and the realm of our Christian life and church life. (Col. 1:18, I Cor. 12:12, Col. 1:17)

"He is the head of the body, the church... For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. .. He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. "
- III. The opposition found in Philippians: The believers' religious world versus Christ - Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, and beware of the mutilation (concision) (3:2).

"Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation (concision)!"

 - A. The dogs have no spirit; they are unclean in nature and are fleshly.
 - B. The evil workers have no Christ; their work damages the saints and devastates the church.
 - C. The mutilators have no God; they live in self-exaltation and religious ordinances.
- IV. Becoming a person who appreciates the excellency of the knowledge of Christ.
 - A. What things were gains to them, they are able to count as loss on account of Christ (3:7a).

"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ."
 - B. On account of Christ they are able to suffer the loss of all things and count them as refuse (3:8a).

"For whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse."
 - C. They desire to gain Christ, even the excellency of the knowledge of Him (*gnosis*, which can be the noun for both *oida* and *ginosko*) (3:8b).

"But surely I count also all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ *Jesus* my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all, and count them to be filth that I may gain Christ;" (Darby)
 - D. They desire to be found in Him (3:9).

"And that I may be found in him, not having my righteousness, which would be on the principle of law, but that which is by faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God through faith." (Darby)