

Sermon Notes & References

To Know Christ and To Make Him Known  
2 Corinthians 5:11

August 1, 2010

A. Introduction

1. August 2010 Sermon Series –

a. the question to be answered ...

b. the theme<sup>A</sup>

2. the 'Core 5' of a philosophy of ministry

a. To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

b. To Encourage in S\_\_\_\_\_ L\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>B</sup>

c. To Equip the S\_\_\_\_\_ for M\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>C</sup>

d. To Teach by S\_\_\_\_\_ E\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>D</sup>

e. To Engage in P\_\_\_\_\_ W\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>E</sup>

B. To Know Christ – 'knowing the fear of the Lord'

1. difference between believers and non-believers<sup>F</sup>

2. difference from knowing about Christ

3. the three practical ways to know Christ<sup>G</sup>

a. the power of His resurrection

b. the fellowship of His Sufferings

c. being conformed to His death<sup>H</sup>

C. To Make Him Known – 'we persuade men'

1. the impetus<sup>I</sup>

2. the example<sup>J</sup>

3. the opportunity – assembling ourselves together

D. my part in this can be ...

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<sup>A</sup> Hebrews 10:25

<sup>B</sup> Luke 22:24-27

<sup>C</sup> Ephesians 4:11-16

<sup>D</sup> 2 Timothy 3:14-4:4

<sup>E</sup> Ephesians 5:15-21

<sup>F</sup> Acts 10:42, Matthew 16:27, 2 Corinthians 5:10

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<sup>G</sup> Philippians 3:10

<sup>H</sup> Philippians 2:8; Romans 8:29

<sup>I</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

<sup>J</sup> Acts 4:8-20

—{1}. **2 Cor 5:11 . . . . . To Know Christ & to Make Him Known**

A. Introduction

1. our August series

- a. in most churches, at the end of the service, the pastor will stand someplace where he can say farewell to those leaving. Occasionally people will say a kind word about the message or some other aspect of the service. However, an incident at one church was far less assuring. 'Why', complained one man as he was leaving, 'is it that every time I come to church, you are always singing "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"?'
- b. there was a letter written to the editor of a newspaper in Edmonton, Alberta: I would strongly urge another course for church growth students: How to make church attendance half as pleasant as dozens of other Sunday morning choices. Any seminary that fails to come to grips with the fact that church is usually boring, and preachers are usually the most boring part of it, is doing a disservice to the whole concept of evangelism. Many people stay away from church because there's no good reason for them to go. So you can pray that the Lord will keep me from being boring; or replace me!
- c. our message series for August is 'Why Go to Church?'
  - (A) you probably wonder, 'why preach this in August when I will be, as it were, preaching to the choir?'
  - (B) well, for those absent who have internet, I shall be sending a copy by e-mail, and to the rest by mail,
  - (C) and in September, Lord willing, we shall resume our messages from Isaiah, the Evangelical Prophet
- d. but for August 2010, our theme verse is Hebrews 10:25: 'not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.'

2. Core 5

- a. during this month we will seek to present 5 core purposes that God has in Christians going to church, purposes which I shall label as the 'Core 5' of our philosophy of ministry
  - (A) 1. To Know Christ and to Make Him Known
  - (B) 2. To Encourage in Servant Leadership

- (C) 3. To Equip the Saints for Ministry
  - (D) 4. To Teach by Scriptural Exposition
  - (E) 5. To Engage in Personal Worship
  - (F) the first three are objectives; the last two are means
- b. today we will be looking at the first of that Core 5
- (A) to know Christ and to Make Him Known
  - (B) and our text today is taken from 2 Corinthians 5:11, '[Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men ...](#)', on which we shall elaborate from other passages of Scripture

B. Part 1 of our title and text is 'To Know Christ'

1. '[knowing the fear of the Lord](#)'

- a. by way of background to these words, Acts 10:42 tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ '[is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.](#)'
- b. and Jesus tells us in Matthew 16:27, '[... the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and \*\*will then repay every man according to his deeds.\*\*](#)'
- c. Jesus will be Judge of all; this underlies Paul's words in the verse preceding our text, 2 Corinthians 5:10, '[For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.](#)'
- d. because, then, Paul is speaking of judgement, that word fear, *phobos*, can be translated as 'terror,' which it will indeed be to those who do not know Jesus Christ
- e. but Christians should not face Christ's judgement seat with terror, because they are in a relationship with Him; their fear of the Lord is reverential awe, deep respect
- f. they know Him in His majesty, in His sovereign lordship in their lives, directing them in all their ways

2. to know Christ is not simply knowing about Jesus Christ

- a. knowing about Him is important as well, and to this end we will be commencing a study on the Life of Christ from the book of Mark in the adult Bible class in September
- b. when a male and female meet and become interested the one in the other, then knowing about the other person is an important aspect of that relationship
- c. but as that personal relationship deepens into love and ultimately marriage, knowledge takes on a

practical form

- d. knowing the other person affects them personally
  - e. it affects their actions, their decisions, their use of time
  - f. in all these that beloved person is now taken into account
  - g. so it is with those who know Jesus Christ: our actions, our decisions, our use of time now recognize His lordship
  - h. let us look at another verse dealing with this practical aspect of knowing the Lord; that is when Paul prays,
3. in Philippians 3:10, 'that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;' which lays out three practical ways that we may know Christ; ways that changes us; changes us into His image
- a. the first practical way: 'the power of His resurrection'
    - (A) in the baptismal service we made reference to the fact that the person who comes up out of the waters of baptism is saying, 'as Christ rose from the dead so I have been raised from the dead and will now walk in a new spiritual life, a changed life, a converted life'
    - (B) this we cannot do of our own power
    - (C) it is empowered by the resurrected Jesus Christ who is interceding for us in heaven
    - (D) it is empowered by the new birth brought about in the believer by the Holy Spirit
    - (E) it is empowered by that same Holy Spirit whom Christ has sent to indwell every believer
  - b. the second practical way: 'the fellowship of His sufferings'
    - (A) fellowship as used in the Bible does not mean
      - (1) our getting together for a corn roast August 21<sup>st</sup>
      - (2) a group of men gossiping at the back of the church or of ladies relating their past week's happenings
    - (B) fellowship means having or doing a thing in common
      - (1) being in partnership with someone in a endeavour
      - (2) sharing or giving from one's means to another
    - (C) so, is Paul being a masochist in wanting to received a share of the sufferings of Christ? ... no, but rather that as he sympathises, feels with, Christ the sufferings of Christ he will better recognize

and respond to Christ's love for himself and for all of lost mankind

c. the third practical way, 'being conformed to His death'

(A) did Paul want to face crucifixion as Christ did? ... no

(B) to understand this phrase, turn back a chapter to Philippians 2:8 where Christ's death is described: 'Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.'

(C) the eulogy of Jesus Christ was that He was obedient to the Father, He did the Father's will in all things

(D) Paul desired that when his life was done, it could be summed up in the same fashion: obedient until death

4. so we assemble together with the people of God, with other Christians, so that we may know Christ, that our relationship with Him may grow deeper and stronger; that we may '... *become conformed to the image of His Son* ...' (Romans 8:29)

C. Part 2 of our title and text is 'To Make Him (that is, Christ) Known'

1. 'we persuade men'

a. because of the love, respect and reverential awe that we have in our relationship with Jesus Christ, we know that our fear of the Lord differs significantly from that which unbelievers will one day face: in their case it will indeed be terror – a total dread of His judgement upon them

b. and for this reason, the believer has an all-consuming new purpose in his or her life; as Paul describes it in the verses following our text, in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 'For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.' – we now live for Christ

c. knowing, by our own personal experience, the lostness of those who are lost, Christ's love constrains us to witness

2. As our Scripture reading today, we read Acts 4:8-20

a. in Acts chapter 3, Peter and John, going up to the temple to pray at about 3 in the afternoon, met the

man lame from birth in the Beautiful Gate

- (A) he asked for alms, for money to help him live
  - (B) he received healing in the name of Jesus of Nazareth
  - (C) and many crowded together to see this wonder
  - (D) this provided ample opportunity for Peter to preach once again the message of Jesus the Christ, Messiah
  - (E) whom they and their rulers had put to death
  - (F) conviction came, people were saved, and the number in the Jerusalem church mounted to 5,000 men
  - (G) but the Jewish religious rulers reacted otherwise
- b. these rulers asked, as was their right and obligation under the OT, by what name they had healed the man
- (A) Peter's answer: '[For there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.](#)' (Acts 4:12) – so the rulers forbade them to speak His name
  - (B) Peter's response? '[... we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.](#)' (Acts 4:20)
- c. the members of the body of Jesus Christ cannot but speak about Jesus; to know Christ and to make Him known
3. how do we make Him known by assembling together?
- a. the lost men and women in our community, our neighbours and our friends, probably won't attend a Sunday service; even when we invite them out to come along with us
  - b. but is this the only time when we as a church assemble?
    - (A) we assemble when we meet for prayer with other believers – on a Wednesday night or otherwise
    - (B) we assemble when we attend Awana in order to lead or to help in presenting the gospel to children
    - (C) we assemble when we meet with other women or men to study the Bible, be they believers or yet only seekers
    - (D) we assemble when we labour with others in VBS
    - (E) we assemble whenever as Christians we come together in order to learn, to serve or to worship Christ

- c. and you may be led for create other such assemblies of believers as means of reaching out with the gospel truth
- d. these, then are just some ways in which we as a church body can work to make Christ known.

D. Conclusion

1. you, as an essential part of this local body of Jesus Christ
  - a. and as the Holy Spirit may personally lead you
  - b. can partake in these endeavours, serving either by prayer or by work within these services and programs being held
  - c. perhaps, too, the Lord has other ways of using you in making Himself known – I know that some of you already have done so in various ways – share these with us, so that we may have fellowship with you in these efforts
2. may God bless you as you know Christ and make Him known

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