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# Christ Covenant Church Update

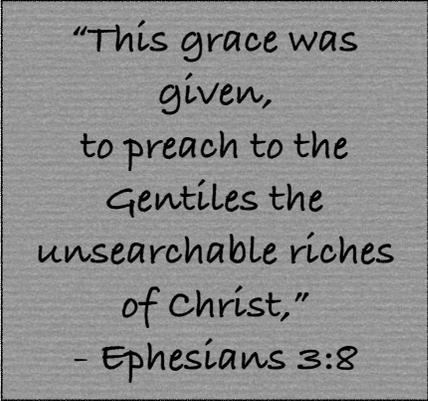
September 10, 2018

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## Worship Together - Preaching

What should you expect when you gather to worship at church? Preaching! Or more specifically, preaching that is centered in Jesus Christ. We will sing and pray and observe the Lord's Supper, and we will hear the preaching of God's word. Preaching is not the only way God speaks and ministers to his creatures by his word, but it is one way that he shares with us his words of life in his Son.

We live in a culture where many people resist any kind of authority in pronouncements. We live in a culture with a 'truth allergy'. We live in a culture anemic to absolute claims. Yet, in every culture God is speaking, preaching, and pronouncing his glory full of grace and truth in Jesus Christ. His pronouncements about life in his Son through the ordinariness and weakness of preaching is one of his purposes in restoring the ruins of a broken creation and the renewal of his creatures.



"This grace was given,  
to preach to the  
Gentiles the  
unsearchable riches  
of Christ,"  
- Ephesians 3:8

What is preaching? Preaching is "the explanation and application of the word in the assembled congregation of Christ." (Peter Adam, *Speaking God's Words: A Practical Theology of Preaching*) We gather as the congregation birthed and formed by faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, the preaching we hear should be God's truth in Jesus for the church's life in Christ. Preaching is the act and work of God in our worship. J.I. Packer says that preaching is "the event of God himself bringing to an audience a Bible based, Christ related, life impacting message of instruction and direction through the words of a spokesperson." (*Some Perspectives on Preaching*). Without the preaching of Jesus Christ in his word, the church dies.

What should we expect from the preaching of Jesus Christ from God's word? We should expect our hearts to burn through faith in Jesus Christ. Preaching is not an exchange of information, but the proclamation and application of the life of Jesus to our lives. Luke records an interchange between Jesus and two of his disciples on the road to Emmaus after the death and resurrection of Jesus. He spoke to them from the Scriptures of the Old Testament about himself. They heard the word and they saw Jesus in the word, and their hearts burned within them (Luke 24:25-27). If they had just heard the Bible, its facts, its stories, but had not heard and seen Christ, then they would have remained in their discouragement and its hardening effects. We should expect all preaching of Scripture to follow one plot line. We should expect every detail of God's word preached lead us down the unfolding of this plot that we may find our lives in Jesus Christ. "From Genesis 3:15 to the end, the Bible is the story of God the Warrior coming to the aid of His people in order to deliver them from the kingdom of darkness and to establish his reign among, in and through them." (Sinclair Ferguson, *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*). When we gather to worship we should expect to hear and see Jesus Christ as the ultimate reality of our existence, as the one on center stage in the unfolding drama of God. (Lewis Allen). We should expect to gather around the throne of him who is the Bread of Life, and from him eat and be satisfied for the life of our whole beings. We can do this as we come by faith to hear him from the preaching of God's word.

## Life Together - Teaching

Are you a man or woman who is gifted to instruct, teach or facilitate learning? Or maybe you've never taught before but you're interested? Our adult **Life Groups** (Sunday 11:30-12:00 am) are aimed at giving Biblical instruction in the context of community for the formation of healthy gospel centered lives. We want to use the gifts of the body of Christ Covenant Church in reaching this goal in our Life Groups. We are interested in expanding our options on Sunday mornings through various classes. Therefore, we are interested in seeing more teachers raised up to share their gifts of teaching and instruction in our adult Life Groups. If you are a man or a woman interested in growing in this area and using your gifts please contact Jim Wilkerson. We will be holding our first meeting together on Tuesday September 18th at 5:30 - 6:30 pm at 1824 Barnwell St.

We encourage you to continue growing in our Life Together through participation in your Shepherding Group, weekly Life Group (right now - Learning to be Peacemakers), and our Growth Groups. If you want to know more about any of these please contact the church office.

