

On-Mission Class #3

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, November 26, 2017; Steve Thiel

I. Welcome

- Tonight's Goal
 1. Teach – Nature of True Faith and the Process of Sanctification
 2. Discussion – David Platt "*Follow Me: A Call To Die. A Call To Live*"
- Tonight's Plan – Combination of Lecture and Discussion

II. Introductory Ideas

A. Overall Thoughts on David Platt's book, "Follow Me"

- What are your overall thoughts on David Platt's book?
 - Did you like it? Yes? No?
 - What did you like about it? What didn't you like about it?
 - I'd just love to get some initial feedback
- Do you think he accomplished the purpose for which he wrote the book?
 - Why did David Platt write "Follow Me"? – (p.4) "*The purpose of this book, then, is to take the next step. I want to move from what we let go of to whom we hold on to. I want to explore NOT only the gravity of what we must forsake in this world, but also the greatness of the One we follow in this world. I want to expose what it means to die to ourselves and to live in Christ.*"
 - Do you think he accomplished that goal?
- What was your favorite part about the book?
- What was your least favorite part about the book?

B. Overview of the Night

- 1st Half – 45 minutes – I'm going to teach on 2 different topics.
- Short Break – 5-10 minutes – Bathroom / Grab something to drink.
- 2nd Half – 45 minutes – Group discussion on David Platt's book, "*Follow Me*"

Transition – Why did I want to read and why did I want all of you to read David Platt's book? Because I think he does an extremely great job of putting forth NOT only the concern that I have for modern evangelicalism, but he also does a great job of putting forth a solution. And his solution is NOT just some gimmick, "*10 steps to the better you*"; but instead, he puts forth a biblical idea of what it means to put your faith in Jesus Christ and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ – so in essence, salvation and sanctification. And I think both are absolutely critical to discipleship – first, your own discipleship (meaning, you are growing in your relationship with God) and then secondly, the discipleship of others!

- So, what I want to do for the first half of the night – is teach briefly on those 2 topics.
- [#1] – Salvation – The nature of true faith.
- [#2] – Sanctification – Growth in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

III. Salvation – "*The Nature of True Faith*"

A. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone!

- Ephesians 2:1-10
 - (v.1) – "*we're dead in our trespasses and sins*" – Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death – but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!
 - As a result of our sin, we deserve God's wrath – His just judgment

On-Mission Class #3

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, November 26, 2017; Steve Thiel

- (v.4) – *“But God”* – so it’s the sovereign work of God in a person’s life to make them alive to the things of God – dead people don’t make themselves alive.
- (vv.8-9) – *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is NOT your own doing; it is the gift of God, not as a result of works”* – so salvation is God’s grace at work in your life, that you might see your sin and your need for a Savior, put your faith in Christ (so not your own works); and as a result, experience salvation!
- (v.10) – *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*
- [What does that mean?] It means that true faith is never alone!

- Other passages that teach salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone
 - John 3:16-18 – *“For God so love the world that He gave His only begotten Son...”*
 - Matthew 11:28-30 – *“Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden...”*
 - Titus 3:3-7 – *“For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs ^{1a]} according to the hope of eternal life.”*
 - Romans Road – Romans 3:23, 6:23, 10:9
 - Romans 3:23 – *“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”*
 - Romans 6:23 – *“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life...”*
 - Romans 10:9 – *“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”*
 - Other passages that you can think of – that salvation is by grace through faith?

Transition – So salvation is by faith alone – NOT WORKS – and yet true faith is never alone. It is always accompanied by a transformed life that looks like something. And the entire New Testament teaches us that is reality. So every N.T. author argues for this idea.

B. True Faith is NEVER alone – it is always accompanied by Good Works

- Jesus teaches that True Faith is NEVER alone!
 - 1st – Salvation by faith alone – Matthew 7:7-14
 - 2nd – Salvation looks like something – Matthew 7:15-20
 - Beware of false prophets – in sheep’s clothing but are inwardly ravenous wolves
 - You will know them by their fruit – good fruit – good tree – bad fruit – bad tree
 - Summary – Matthew 7:20 – *“Thus you will know them by their fruit.”*
 - 3rd – Warning that salvation must look like something – Matthew 7:21-23
 - Who does that sound like to you? – The religious people of Jesus’ day.
 - Who are the religious people of Jesus’ day? – The scribes and Pharisees
 - What’s the context? The false teaching of the scribes and Pharisees.
 - Context – Matthew 5:20 – *“Unless your righteousness exceeds the scribes...”*
 - Context – Matthew 23:1-7 – *“For they preach, but they do NOT practice...”*
 - Context – Matthew 23:25-28 – *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites...”*
 - Context – Matthew 23:29-36 – *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites...”*

On-Mission Class #3

Christ Proclamation Church; Sunday, November 26, 2017; Steve Thiel

- Acts demonstrates that True Faith is NEVER alone!
 - Preaching of the gospel – Acts 2:36
 - Conviction of sin – Acts 2:37
 - More preaching of the gospel – Acts 2:38-40
 - Repentance, faith, and baptism – Acts 2:41
 - Church is born – Acts 2:42
 - Faith looks like something – Acts 2:43-47
 - John 13:35 – Jesus said, *“They will know that you are My disciples, by your love for one another”* – *“And the Lord was adding to their number... those being saved!”*
- Paul teaches that True Faith is NEVER alone!
 - Galatians 5:1, 13-15 – Salvation means that you are NOT enslaved to your sin
 - Galatians 5:16-25 – Instead you have freedom to love and serve one another
 - Now the works of the flesh are evident – Galatians 5:19-21
 - But the fruit of the Spirit is also evident – Galatians 5:22-25
 - And you are NOT in the flesh – but in the SPIRIT – Romans 8:1-9
- James teaches that True Faith is NEVER alone!
 - James 2:14-26 – Faith without works is death faith – demon faith
 - James 2:14 – Question – Can faith without works save a person?
 - James 2:17 – Summary – *“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead”*
 - James 2:20 – Summary – *“Faith apart from works is useless”*
 - James 2:26 – Summary – *“For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead”*
- Peter teaches that True Faith is NEVER alone!
 - Salvation by faith alone – 1 Peter 1:3-9
 - Salvation is never alone – 2 Peter 1:3-11
- John teaches that True Faith is NEVER alone!
 - Salvation by faith alone – 1 John 3:1-2
 - Salvation is never alone – 1 John 3:3-10
 - Salvation by faith alone – 1 John 4:10
 - Salvation is never alone – 1 John 4:11, 19-21

Transition – So salvation is by faith alone – NOT WORKS – and yet true faith is never alone. It is always accompanied by a transformed life that looks like something – NOT just good intentions – BUT fruit!

- But how does this get play out practically? Couple of thoughts.
- [#1] – Rejoice with the angels in heaven over one sinner who repents – Luke 15:10
- [#2] – Recognize that different people grow at different rates – Mark 4:20
 - Soil types 1, 2, and 3 are unbelievers – Don’t ultimately bear fruit.
 - Soil type 4 are believers – *“But the seed that was sown on good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and hundredfold.”*
- [#3] – Recognize that the bible has a huge category for deception – even soil types 2 and 3.
- [#4] – Be involved in a local church – be known, don’t hide, accountability groups, etc.
- [#5] – Have clarity and courage – Willingly loving people enough to ask how they’re doing?

On-Mission Class #3

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C. Sanctification

- Through the Power of the Gospel – 1 Peter 1:22-2:1
 - Gospel is the power of God for Salvation
 - Gospel is the power of God for Sanctification
 - 1 Peter 1:22-25 – Salvation – Born Again – Through the preaching of the gospel!
 - Romans 1:16-17 – “Gospel is the power of God for salvation!”
 - 1 Peter 2:1 – Sanctification – Through the pure milk of the Word – That you may grow up into salvation – putting away all malice and deceit and hypocrisy and envy!

- Certainly Includes – Put Off Sin / Put On Righteousness – Ephesians 4:1-5:1
 - Context – Command to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel – Ephesians 4:1
 - NOT like the Gentiles – Ephesians 4:17-19
 - Ephesians 4:20-21 – “But that is NOT the way you learned Christ! – assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus.”
 - Summary – Ephesians 4:22-24 – “Put off the old self / Put on the new self”
 - Details – Ephesians 4:25-32
 - Put off falsehood / Put on speaking the truth
 - Put off anger and sin / Put on anger and quick resolution
 - Put off stealing / Put on working and sharing
 - Put off corrupt speech / Put on edifying and gracious speech
 - Put off grieving the Holy Spirit (bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice) / Put on being imitators of God (kind, tender-hearted, loving, forgiving)
 - Summary – Ephesians 5:1-2 – “Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us..”

- Relationship NOT Religion – 1 John 3:1-3
 - Relationship – 1 John 3:1 – “See what kind of love the Father has given unto us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are!”
 - We are the children of God – Therefore, God is our loving heavenly Father
 - Therefore, we need to cultivate our relationship with our heavenly Father
 - Sanctification – 1 John 3:3 – “And everyone who thus hopes in Him (1 John 3:2, longing for His return, when He will appear and we will see Him as He is) And everyone who hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.”
 - Similar Verses – 1 Peter 1:13-16 – “fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” – motivation to be holy!

- Relationship NOT Religion – John 14:15-21
 - John 14:15 – “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments”
 - John 14:16 – Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit
 - John 14:18 – Jesus will NOT leave us as orphans – but He will come to us
 - John 14:21 – Keep His commandments because we love Him – As we love Him and keep His commandments – He will manifest Himself more and more to us!

IV. Closing Comments

- Next Meeting – Sunday, December 17th – 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Assigned Reading – “Christian Beliefs” chs. 7, 8, and 9 – “Spiritual Disciplines” – ch.3