

HOW WE LEARN CHRIST

WHY IT'S NOT THROUGH THE RED LETTERS

"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh:
yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh,
yet now henceforth know we him no more."

~ 2 Corinthians 5:16

1. Learning Christ

- a. We say our goal is to grow in knowledge of the Lord. But, how? – Phil 3:8
- b. "knowledge of the Son of God", "grow up into Christ" - Eph 4:13, 15
- c. How do we learn Christ? How were you taught by him? - 4:20-21
- d. Learning Jesus is mistaken for good deeds, circumstance, happiness, success, life
- e. These things are not Christ, these things are you – Phil 2:21

2. Making it Plain

- a. Paul says he determined to know only Christ and him crucified – 1 Cor 2:2
- b. Learning Christ is not mystical (feelings, obscure, etc.) it is practical / plain
- c. Jesus Christ is a real person, who did work, and has left us instructions as Lord
- d. The person and his work: Who is he? What did he do? What is our pattern?
- e. We can know him after the flesh, or after his resurrection - 2 Cor 5:16

3. Christ After the Flesh

- a. Most people learn Christ in the flesh, what he did among Israel to fulfill prophecy
- b. Who is he? Holy child, Son of God, Messiah, King of Jews John 1:41, 19:19, 20:31
- c. What did he do? – Miracles, parables, prophecy – John 21:25, Acts 4:24-32
- d. What is the pattern? – Twelve disciples, Jesus' suffering, kingdom - Acts 2:42-44

4. Christ According to the Mystery

- a. There is knowledge of Christ in a mystery – Eph 3:4, Rom 16:25
- b. Who is he? A new creature, Saviour, Head of all – Acts 9:3, Eph 1:21, Col 2:10
- c. What did he do? – Died and rose again for us – 1 Cor 15:3-5, Rom 6:5, 8:10
- d. What is the pattern? – Christ set Paul as the pattern – 1 Tim 1:16, Phil 3:17
- e. We would be wrong to find our pattern in the red letters, we walk not by sight
- f. We learn Christ by learning about mystery doctrine – 1 Cor 11:1, Col 1:26-28

5. What We Learn

- a. He is a new man (Rom 5); so are we (Rom 6); we are dead to the law (Rom 7); but alive in the Spirit (Rom 8); we have a renewed mind – Rom 12:2
 - i. The knowledge of God and his will – Col 1:9-10, 2 Cor 4:6
 - ii. The peace of God (through Christ) – Rom 5:1, Phil 4:7
 - iii. The love of Christ (as commended on the cross) – 2 Cor 5:14, Eph 3:19
 - iv. We are renewed in the spirit of our mind – Eph 4:23-24