

Preaching Jesus Christ

Sunday, october 25TH, 1987

Acts 5:42

“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.”

I would like to have your undivided attention and speak to you on the subject: “PREACHING JESUS CHRIST.” I’ll be preaching from Acts 5:42.

The apostles of our Lord were men whose whole lives were dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ. These men, like Peter, James, John and later, the apostle Paul, were men who loved Christ and believed Christ. These men lived Christ and these men preached Christ.

If you will read in Acts 5:42, you will find that this is said of the apostles, *“And daily in the temple and in every house they ceased not to preach and to teach Jesus Christ.”* They preached in every temple and every house. Their subject was the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Acts 8:5, talking about the ministry of Phillip, it says; *“He went down to the city of Samaria and he preached Christ to them.”* Picking up the ministry of Phillip out in the desert, when he spoke to the Ethiopian Eunuch, the Scripture says in verse 35 of Chapter 8; *“Then Phillip opened his mouth and began at the same Scripture and preached unto him Jesus Christ.”* This was the subject, Jesus Christ.

In the 11th Chapter of Acts, verse 20, it says; *“When they came to Antioch, they spake to the Grecians, to the people who had come from Greek, preaching the Lord Jesus Christ.”* Now, it is evident from all these Scriptures that the apostles not only loved Christ and believed Christ, but Jesus Christ was their subject. They preached Christ.

It is the natural tendency of men if left alone, apart from God’s Spirit dealing with them to go further and further away from God. If left alone, a natural man will go further and further away from God if God doesn’t bring a man to Himself.

Preachers are no exception. Preachers and churches are no exception. If left alone and left to their own wisdom, preachers and churches will go further and further and further away from the living God and away from the Gospel.

An example of this is found in the early days of the church. When our Lord died on the cross and was buried and rose again and ascended back to the Father, the apostles and their followers preached Christ.

At Pentecost Peter preached Christ and all these men preached Christ. Paul preached at Mars Hill. Phillip went to Samaria and preached Christ. For several years after the Lord ascended back to heaven at the right hand of God; they preached Christ.

But, if you will read the book of Corinthians (both epistles), and the book to the Galatians written by the apostle Paul, you will find that these preachers and these churches soon departed from preaching Christ and began to major on other things.

They became taken up with other things. You see that in the book of Corinthians and in the book of Galatians how they departed from preaching Christ. It is no different today. It is no different in our day.

Let me ask you this, where in organized religion, with all the churches in your town and in my town and all over the country, can a person go and hear Jesus Christ preached? I'm talking about without all the entertainment, without all the organization, without all the promotion and all of these things and just hear the Word of God taught, hear the Word of God read and hear the Lord Jesus Christ preached.

You just tell me in organized religion today where can you go and hear Jesus Christ preached? Where can you go to hear who He is and what He did, why He did it, where He is now and the glory of His person and His work?

I know men preach about Christ, but my friend; you can preach about Christ and not preach Christ. You can preach about the Gospel and not preach the Gospel.

In the book of 2 John, John deals with this subject. He talks about the doctrine of Christ, not doctrines about Christ or doctrines concerning Christ, but the doctrine of Christ. Our whole doctrine is Christ.

I do not hesitate to call myself a "Sovereign Gracer or Calvanist." It does not matter which term you wish to use to identify one who believes in the sovereign grace of God. I believe the Bible. I believe that Almighty God is absolutely sovereign in all things. God is sovereign in creation, in providence and salvation. "*He works all things after the council of His own will.*" I believe in a sovereign God.

I believe that man is fallen and depraved; unable and unwilling to come to Christ apart from a Divine revelation. I believe that and am acquainted with the old catechisms. I'm acquainted with the Heidelberg, the West Minister and the Philadelphian and the London and all these catechisms.

I preach the message that Luther preached, Calvin preached, Zwingli, Huss, Owens, Edwards and Whitfield, all of these men of old. I believe their message and I do not hesitate to preach these doctrines.

If you ask me what my creed is; I say that my creed is Christ. I don't hesitate to take the name Baptist.

There is only one Scriptural Baptism and that is by immersion. The Scripture says, "*He that believeth and is baptized.*" It does not say, he that is baptized then believes. Our Lord told them to, "*Go into all the world and make disciples and baptize disciples,*" not baptize babies but baptize disciples. Baptism is by immersion. I don't have any doubt about that. I don't hesitate to call myself a Baptist. If you ask me, "what is my creed?" My creed is Christ.

I don't hesitate to say that I believe in a local church. Our God has a church of the, "*Firstborn which He purchased with His own blood.*" There is a church, "*Whose names are written in heaven.*"

There are local churches. I'm a pastor of a local church. I believe in the Lord's ordinances and the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you ask me what my creed is? My creed is Christ.

If you ask me what my body of divinity is? I reply; there is but one body of divinity and that is Christ Jesus. I don't preach a program or an organization or a denomination or even a doctrine. I don't preach a system of truths or catechism; I preach Christ.

Christ is our message. That is what Paul said when he came down to Corinth to all of the intellectual and philosophical people who were greatly learned. He said, "*I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*"

There is but one body of divinity. "*In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in Him.*" We preach Christ. Jesus Christ is the sum and substance of our Gospel. If we don't preach Christ we haven't preached any Gospel.

Jesus Christ is the incarnation of all truth. They said, "*What is truth?*" He said, "*I am the truth.*" He is the truth; "*You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*" The truth is not a series of doctrines; truth is a person. "*I am the way; I am the truth; I am the life.*"

Christ is the wisdom of God. “*He is made unto us wisdom.*” He is called “*The wisdom of God.*” In the book of Proverbs it talks about the wisdom of God; that is Christ Jesus.

He is not only the wisdom of God; “*He is the righteousness of God.*” He is the embodiment of the righteousness of God. He is the fulfillment of all the holiness of God. “*He is our sanctification.*” He is our full redemption from Alpha to Omega, from beginning to end.

Our acceptance with God is in, through, by and because of Jesus Christ. It is not because of anything that we have done or anything that we shall do.

Jesus Christ is our hope; “*Christ in you, that is the hope of glory.*” Jesus Christ is my life. “*When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall you appear with Him also in glory.*” Christ is our salvation.

So, what is my creed? My creed is Christ. What is my confession of faith? “*Christ died for my sins, was buried and rose again, who is even at the right hand of God who intercedeth for me.*”

My friends; if I have one more message to preach, that message would be Christ. If I have one thousand messages yet to preach, the theme of every one of them would be “*Christ and Him crucified.*”

What I am trying to say is and what I have tried to enforce upon this telecast for the last 13 or 14 years is this; men today, as in every day, are not preaching Christ. They are preaching doctrines about Christ. They are even using the name of Christ. As far as preaching Christ clearly, emphatically, there are not too many doing it today.

I ask this question; what is it then, to preach Jesus Christ? I am going to try to make good on this now, on this subject; what is it to preach Christ? When you say you preach Christ, the apostles preach Christ, all who are sent of God ought to preach Christ, what do you mean? What is it to preach Christ?

All right; I will give you four or five things:

First of all; to preach Christ is to declare in no uncertain terms that Jesus Christ is very God of very God. He's not only the Son of God but God Himself. The Lord our God is one God and Jesus Christ is that God. God manifests Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

He is one God and that one God is Jesus Christ, “*Who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God who is the express, exact image of God.*” In fact, in Hebrews the Father said to the Son; “*Thy throne O God is forever.*” What I am saying is, to preach Jesus Christ is to emphatically, unconditionally, in no uncertain terms, to declare that He is very God of very God.

When you refer to Jesus Christ as only a great prophet, and many people do, or a great teacher, and many call him a great teacher, or a great healer or even a great man; you have declared Him to be a great imposter. Now, that’s right!

Let me say that again, if you only say that Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth, is a great prophet or a great healer, or a great preacher or a great man, then I reply; He is a great imposter because He said; “*I and My Father are one.*”

He said to the disciples, “*He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father.*” Again, He said; “*No man hath seen God at any time save the Son and He to whom the Son will reveal Him.*” Isaiah declared this, “*A virgin shall be with Son and thou shall call His name Emmanuel, which is being interpreted; God with us.*”

Again in Isaiah, He said; “*Unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor the Mighty God the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*” Who is Jesus Christ? He is God.

Jesus Christ is one of two things and this is preaching Christ. This leaves no room for compromise. It declares Him to be who He is. He said, “*I AM.*” When God sent Moses down into Egypt to deliver the children of Israel, he said; “*They will ask who sent me? Whom shall I say that sent me?*” God replied; “*Tell them I AM that I AM.*”

Jesus Christ referred to Himself over and over and over again as “*I am. Before Abraham was I am.*” We seek Jesus of Nazareth; “*I AM.*” Again, He said; “*If you believe not that I am, you will die in your sins.*”

Jesus Christ is one of two things; He is “*Very God of very God*” or He is the arch deceiver of souls. Which is it? So, “*We preach Christ.*” We preach Him in His eternity; we preach Him in His deity; we preach Him in His eternal glory; we preach Him as the Creator of the world; “*All things were made by Him, for Him and by Him all things are sustained and held together that in all things He might have the preeminence.*” This is preaching Christ.

You can spend months and months and months on His Deity, His Godhead, His Glory, and His Eternality. Every attribute of God is revealed in the Son. “*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.*” That is what I am saying; do you understand that? That is preaching Christ. We preach Christ so men can understand this and we speak so plainly that they can understand what we are saying.

Those people that took up stones to stone Him understood Him. He said, “*I and My Father are one. They took up stones to stone Him.*” He said, “*Many good works have I done among you, for which of these do you stone me?*” They said, “*We're not stoning you for a good work; we are stoning you because you are a man and you say that you are God.*” They understood what He said.

How many of you out there believe that Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth is very God of very God? Can you fall with Thomas at His feet and say, “*My Lord and my God?*”

Second: What is it to preach Christ? It is to declare under no certain terms emphatically, so as to be understood, that Jesus Christ is true man. I’m talking about His true humanity. We must never make Him a less man because He is God or less God because He is man. He is the God-man.

Listen to me, Jesus of Nazareth is a real man. You might say that these things that I am talking about are not preached. That’s exactly what I am saying; people do not know who He is. “*How shall they believe on Him of whom they have not heard? How shall they hear unless someone preaches Christ?*”

“*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved.*” That is the true name, the name which identifies Him. This is the name that reveals Him and this is the name which is true to His character.

There are a lot of people talking about a jesus but they are not talking about this Jesus. This is “*another Jesus,*” Paul said. “*It is another spirit and another gospel.*” Read that in 2 Corinthians 11:4. Jesus of Nazareth was a real man. He was bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh. He was living, talking, walking, and feeling, thirsting, hungry, suffering, “*Tempted and tested in all points as we are.*”

“*He was numbered with the transgressors. He took upon Himself the likeness of sinful flesh. He was made in the form of a servant and became obedient. He was made of a woman.*”

This is exactly how you were made of a mother. You were fashioned in the womb and brought forth into this world. Jesus Christ the Son of God had no earthly father. The Heavenly Father is His Father. He was begotten of the Holy Spirit. We were begotten of a human father. We were born nothing but flesh.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is begotten of the Spirit of God. He was conceived by the Spirit of God. “*He was made of a woman and made under the law.*” This was in order for Him to redeem His people; He had to become a man.

If you don’t have a real human Saviour, you don’t have a Gospel because the Law was given to man, it must be fulfilled by man perfectly or you have no righteousness. If you don’t have God in human flesh you have no Gospel.

In Romans 1:3, Paul says, “*The Gospel is concerning His Son who was made to be of the seed of the Son of David, according to the flesh. He was made according to the flesh, the Son of David, and declared to be the Son of God.*” He is the God-Man!

He is a man to be tempted, a man to obey, a man to suffer and God to satisfy. You cannot be right in the rest if you are not right in your thoughts about Him. Who is Jesus Christ?

Third: Listen to me on this, preaching Christ is to preach His solitary work in redemption. What do I mean by the word, solitary? I mean “alone.” We play a game that is called “Solitaire.” It is a card game that you play alone. You don’t have a partner or anyone else in the game but one person.

What I am saying is this; Jesus Christ redeemed us by Himself. That is what it says in Hebrews 1:3; “*When He had by Himself purged our sins; He sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on High.*” Hebrews 9:26 says, “*He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*”

I’m telling you this; His life of obedience is our righteousness. His death on Calvary is our justification; His Holiness in thought, in word and in deed, is our sanctification. His presence is our acceptance. He did it all alone.

The banquet of mercy is served up by one host who prepared the meal and furnished the meal and invites the guest. He serves the table. That is the Lord of Glory. The royal bath of mercy in which black souls are washed white from their guilt, stain and sin, is drawn from the veins of the Son of God.

No deeds, no works, no decisions, no professions of faith or anything that we do contributes to the salvation of our souls.

Jesus paid it all
All the debt I owe.
Sin has left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.

The efficacious work of Christ does not depend any way upon the creature. The sufficient sacrifice of the Son of God and His faithful obedience as our representative does not need your approval to make it sufficient in the sight of Almighty God.

Every attribute of God is fully met in Christ. “*We are accepted in the Beloved.*” The Gospel, my friend, is not a proposition; it is a proclamation; “*You are complete in Him.*” That is preaching Christ.

Fourth: Preaching Christ is to preach “*Jesus Christ as the only Mediator between God and men.*” That is in First Timothy 2:5. The Word plainly says; “*There is one God, one Lord, and one Mediator between God and men and that is the man Christ Jesus.*” Listen to me, This is preaching Christ.

In declaring what the Word says about the Mediatorial office of Christ, “*There is one God and one Mediator.*” In declaring Jesus Christ to be the only Mediator we set aside and strongly reject any other Mediator, any other Mediator or any other Intercessor.

Here is God in His holiness; here is man in his inability and there is one Mediator between God and men. There is one means of communing with God; there is one means of approaching God; there is one way to come before the Father and that is through Christ. There is nothing else and no one else.

Mary, who gave birth to the Son of God, was a human instrument of God. She found favor in the sight of God and was only a sinner saved by grace. She is not a mediator; she is not an intercessor and she cannot aid any sinner.

The saints Jude, Christopher or any of the apostles, even today’s present day imposters are not mediators. No creature, no angel, no organization can pray to God for you, plead for you or bring you to God; “*Only the Son of God ever liveth to make intercession for us.*”

He said, “*No man has seen God at any time. The only begotten hath declared Him. No man knoweth the Father save the Son. No creature knows the Father save the Son and He to whom the Son will reveal Him.*”

He said, “*I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.*” The apostle plainly declared, “*Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Jesus Christ the Lord.*” Is that clear? That is preaching Christ, the sufficiency of Christ. He is the only Mediator; there is no coming to God. God is unapproachable except through Jesus Christ.

Fifth: When you preach Christ, I am talking about preaching Jesus Christ of the Bible. “*The apostles ceased not to preach Jesus Christ.*” Preaching Christ is to preach Jesus Christ as, “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*”

My friends, to preach Jesus Christ as anything less than He is, is to deny His Godhead, rob Him of His glory and not preach Christ at all. Listen to His words, He describes Himself; He says, “*As the Father quickeneth the dead, so the Son quickeneth whom He will.*” He will make alive whom He will. “*He will show mercy on whom He will show mercy. He will be gracious to whom He will.*”

He saith, “*No man takes My life from Me; I lay it down. I have the power to lay it down and take it up.*” He said again, to His disciples; “*All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.*” He prayed to the Heavenly Father; “*You have given Me all power over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Me.*”

Again, He said, “*The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into His hands. He died that He might be Lord of the dead and the living.*” Does this sound like the weak, defeated, frustrated, reformer that I hear preached today, called Jesus?

Does this sound like the pitiful Jesus who wants you to let Him in your heart and He stands outside the heart’s door and knocks and no one will let Him have His way? No sir! I have no time or patience with preachers who present Jesus Christ only as a reformer, an example, an offer, an effort or a partial Saviour. He is the King, “*King of King and Lord of Lords. He will have mercy on whom He will.*”

He is the King of creation; He is the King of providence and He is the King of salvation. He bought this universe with His own blood; it is His as are all creatures in this universe. He has a church. He said, “*Other sheep I have which are not of this fold but them I must bring. They shall hear My voice and they shall be one fold. All that My Father giveth Me shall come to Me and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out.*”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not a mere plea or invitation to rebels; it is a glorious command of King Jesus to His subjects. “*Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*”

What is it to preach Christ? To preach Christ is to declare Him clearly and emphatically as very God of very God. God in human flesh, God who is our righteousness, God our sacrifice, God our sin-offering, God our King, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who is seated in heaven, “*Expecting until His enemies become His footstool.*”