

## The Doctrine of Christ

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1986

### 2 John 1:7-11

*“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”*

Last week on the telecast I brought you a message using great plainness of speech and candid doctrine and truth. I am going to do the same thing today. I have a message for you entitled: “THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.”

I want you to listen very carefully. The way I believe we should preach the Gospel is to preach it for the glory of God according to the Word of God and in a way that will magnify Christ Jesus. I want to do it with very plain language and simple language. The apostle Paul said, *“With simplicity and sincerity of truth.”*

You are going to understand what I am saying today. I want you to listen to it very carefully and follow along with me in the Scripture. I am reading from the book of Second John. There is just one chapter in this epistle, called the epistle of Second John. I'm reading from verses 7 through 11. You follow along as I read.

The Scripture says, *“For many deceivers are entered into the world who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh; this is a deceiver and an antichrist.”* Look at verse 9: *“Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”*

*“If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine of Christ, receive him not into your house. Neither bid him God speed for he that biddeth him God speed is a partaker of his evil deeds.”*

Now, there are true preachers and there are false preachers. There are true believers and there are false believers. All true believers, truly redeemed people and true preachers of the Gospel have many things in common. Among them are these:

First of all: They believe the Word of God. As David said, *“I love Thy Word. It is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”* As Paul wrote, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.”* All Scripture is God breathed and *“profitable for doctrine.”*

I’m talking about all doctrine; *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. If they speak not according to the Word of God it is because there is no light in them.”* So, all believers have this in common, they love, cherish, and delight in Christ and believe the Word of God.

Second: All true believers and all true preachers of the Gospel reverence, fear, and worship the one true living God. There is no compromise on their part; they fear God and they hold Him in great reverence.

The Scripture says, *“Holy and Reverend is His name.”* They worship the living God. They can say with one voice and heart, *“Come, let us bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our God. The Lord our God is one God. To whom be all the glory and the praise, now and forever.”*

Third: All true believers and all true preachers of the Gospel are conscience of their sins before God. They can say with David, *“My sins are ever before me. Against Thee and Thee only have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight.”*

They can say with the Psalmist, *“Have mercy upon me O God, according to Thy loving kindness and tender mercies; blot out my transgressions. Purge me with hyssop; wash me and I shall be clean.”*

Every believer, whether in the pulpit or the pew, has a consciousness of sin. They have cast themselves on the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. They are not trying to wash their sins away in water or purge their sins with sacraments or make themselves holy by their own merit and their own self-righteousness.

They are not trying to hide their nakedness with fig leaves of works; this is an abomination to God. They trust Christ and they believe Christ. They are resting in Christ and drawing all that they have from that blessed fountain of grace and fountain of mercy which is Jesus Christ the Lord.

Fourth: All true believers have an understanding and a love for the person and work of Christ. Listen to me, all true preachers and true believers are not confused in regard to who Jesus Christ is. They are not confused about what He did, why He did it, and where He is now. They know who He is. They have an understanding of and a great love for

the person and work of Jesus Christ which is called in the Scriptures, *“The doctrine of Christ.”*

John summed it up like this in 1 John 5:20; he said, *“We know that the Son of God has come into this world and hath given us an understanding that we may know Him that is true and that we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ, this is the true God and this is eternal life.”*

Now, every believer and every true preacher has an understanding of the doctrine of Christ. Did you notice in that Scripture that I read awhile ago written by the apostle John, who said, *“Many deceivers (false teachers and false preachers) have gone out into this world?”*

They are active in religion and their chief error has to do with what they believe and what they preach about Jesus Christ. In other words, *“They transgress and abide not in the doctrine of Christ.”*

Did you hear that when I read that awhile ago? He said, *“Many deceivers are entered into the world who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. Whoso transgresseth and abideth not in this doctrine of Christ hath not God.”*

Whatever he has or whatever he professes to have, if he does not have this doctrine of Christ, *“He hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.”*

If anybody comes to you preaching or teaching and does not bring this doctrine of Christ, John says; *“Do not receive him into your house.”* Do not support him. Do not bid him God’s speed. Don’t wish him the best of health. Do not send him away with your blessings. These people *“Abide not in the doctrine of Christ.”*

Listen how plain he puts it back in 1 John 4: verses 1-3, say, *“Whosoever confesses not.”* I’m talking about confessing it in word, deed and method; he *“confesses not.”* He may refuse to confess for whatever purpose. He may not preach, teach or confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. What is that saying?

He has come in the flesh. He has come somewhere. He has left somewhere and come somewhere. This is what it is saying, Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary, is the Christ of God. He is the Messiah; He is very God of very God.

He is, as Isaiah put it, "*Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace.*" He is the Surety of the Covenant; He is the Redeemer.

If a man doesn't preach and teach that Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh and that He actually became flesh and dwelt among us on this earth, then he is not of God. He, who is with God (Jesus Christ), is God, "*by whom all things were made.*" Those who do not believe this are not of God.

Not only that, He said, "*They are antichrist.*" He said, not only that but "*They deceive people.*" This takes in a whole lot of folks. Let me read you the text again, "*Many deceivers have entered the world.*"

Who are these deceivers? These are people who are popular preachers and teachers. These people are preachers, teachers, and religious leaders. The error of most preachers and teachers and religious leaders has nothing to do with creation.

I hear them arguing about creation or evolution. That is not where the problem is with most preachers. He didn't say, "Whosoever transgresseth in the doctrine of creation hath not God." He said, "*The doctrine of Christ.*"

He didn't say, "Whoso confesseth not that God created the world in six days, hath not God." He said, "*Whosoever confesseth not that Jesus came in the flesh, hath not God.*" That is the deceiver; that is the antichrist. So, the great error, issue, and trouble is not over creation or morality.

You can't say that a man, who does not fight abortion, hath not God. You cannot say that a man, who goes to a baseball game on Sunday, hath not God. You cannot say that a man who drinks a bottle of beer, hath not God. He does not say that! He says, "*Whoso confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh; he hath not God and he is a deceiver and an antichrist.*" There is the issue.

The issue is not having creation in six days. It is not laws and morality; it is not laws and government. The issue has to do with Jesus Christ. That is the supreme error and that is the very foundation of error. They do not preach Christ as He is revealed in the Word.

You can preach what you will. It is useless if you don't preach Christ. You can believe what you will but it is useless if you don't believe Christ. You can do what you will but it is useless if you do not do it and have it in the name of Christ. That is what Paul is saying to the Corinthians; "*I determined to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.*" Christ is all!

Did you notice that? It was used three times in those verses. The beloved apostle John who leaned on the Master's breast at the Last Supper, the beloved John who wrote the Gospel of John and three epistles (First, Second and Third John), said; *"Whosoever confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, (the very God of very God has visited this world in human flesh) and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God ."*

He is the Redeemer; He is the Saviour; He is our ransom; He is our Surety and Substitute. He is our Righteousness, Justifier and Sanctifier. Almighty God has come to this earth in human flesh. He walked on this earth, fulfilling the Law.

He went to the cross, died, was buried and rose again and went back to glory. He came in the flesh and accomplished what God sent Him to do. He went back to glory where He sat down at the right hand of God. If you don't believe that, preach that and confess that, you have not God.

Once more, you are a deceiver and an antichrist. *"Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in this doctrine of Christ hath not God."* But, *"Whosoever believeth and abideth in this doctrine of Christ, not only has God the Father but has God the Son."*

If anyone comes to you, it doesn't matter whether he is walking down the street selling Bibles, or whether he is promoting the denomination, preaching in a pulpit, or preaching on television; don't let him into your home if he does not bring this doctrine. Don't bid him *"God speed."* Don't wish him well on his journey and don't give him a nickel if he doesn't preach the doctrine of Christ.

My friend, that is what that says and I challenge you to get the Bible and see if it is not so. Christ said, *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by Me."*

The apostle said this, *"Other foundation can no man lay than that which is Christ."* He said again, *"There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."*

Our Lord sent the disciples out into the world to preach the Gospel. He said, *"Go preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth the gospel, (the gospel of Christ), and is baptized shall be saved. He that believeth not, (believeth not what, the gospel of Christ), shall be damned?"*

I'm not being narrow, fanatical, or radical. I'm just telling you what God says in the Bible. If you do not go along with the Bible then toss it out the window and be a pagan and hope that it is wrong.

*"This is the record; God hath given us eternal life and this life is in His Son."* This life is not in the church, not in the baptistry, not in the altar, in the preacher's hand or in your decision. Eternal life, the life of God, the new life, the new nature and eternal glory is in Jesus Christ.

It is in Him because He bought it and purchased it. He fulfilled it and accomplished it by His obedience and death. It was fulfilled by His life and blood. It is in Christ. He that hath Christ has this life that is in Christ.

He that hath not Christ hath not the life, for Christ is the life. Do you see that? It is just as plain and simple as that. If you have anything, you have to go where it is. If you drink water, you have to go to the fountain. If you have the fountain, you have the water. If you don't have the fountain, you don't have the water. If you have Christ you have life and if you don't have Christ you don't have life.

You might say, "I will tell you what I think preacher." The Scripture says, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD."* Paul, in Colossians says (this is one of my favorite Scriptures and I preach on it often); *"Christ is all."*

Let me show you that *"Christ is all"* in these four things:

*"Christ is all"* in the great and grand design of God for His eternal Kingdom. God has a purpose and a plan. There is going to be a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth a new people, a holy race, all of them being purchased by Christ, redeemed by Christ and conformed to the image of Christ that *"He might be the firstborn among many brethren, that in all things He might have the preeminence."*

*"Christ is all"* in this thing of His eternal design and plan of redemption. It says in Colossians 1:14-16, *"In Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin. He is the image (the exact image, express image) of the invisible God. He is the firstborn of every creature for by Him were all things created."*

*"He is before all things that are created and by Him all things are held together that in all things He might have the preeminence."* Did you ever hear anything clearer than that? This is talking about Christ.

Listen to this again, *“He is before all things. By Him all things are created. For by Him were all things created and by Him all things consist (are held together) and He has the preeminence in all things.” “The Father hath loved the Son and has given all things into His hands.” “Christ is all and in all.”*

He is all in creation and He is all in the Old Testament Scriptures. Did you ever read the Old Testament carefully and see that Christ is revealed on every page of the Old Testament? He said, *“Moses wrote of me.”* He told the Pharisees, *“Search the Scriptures; they are they which testify of me.”*

*“Christ is all”* not only in the Old Testament Scriptures, He is all in the types, shadows, patterns and pictures. The Passover is Christ; *“Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.”* That rock in the wilderness is Christ. That tabernacle is Christ. That Priesthood and Sacrifice is Christ. This is all pointing to Christ.

For when He came and died and fulfilled them; they ceased. In salvation, redemption, justification and sanctification, *“Christ is all.”* In the new Heaven and the new Earth, *“Christ is all”* because up there they sing, *“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive all glory and all power both now and forever.”*

Not only that, *“Christ is all”* in mercy and grace to sinners. *“In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in Christ.”* He is our completion. Everything that God has for the sinner is in Christ, every mercy and spiritual blessing is in Christ.

We were chosen in Christ; *“We are accepted in the beloved.”* We are made holy and righteous in Christ. All believers are justified in Christ; *“Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

All believers are *“Free from the curse of the Law,”* in Christ. *“Christ hath delivered us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us.”* Paul said, *“Who is he that condemneth; it is Christ that died, yea rather, who is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God who also maketh intercession for us.”*

All believers are risen and seated in Christ. No truth can be plainer in the Word of God. This is the doctrine of Christ. This is exactly what Paul was talking about when he said to the Corinthians, *“We preach Christ.”* Paul said, *“God didn’t send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel of Christ.”* He also said, *“I’m determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”*

If you preach God, if you preach His glory, if you preach His person, if you preach His Kingdom, if you preach His salvation or if you preach His will, you must preach Christ and Him crucified.

Then, *“Christ is all”* to the new man. Listen to this Scripture in Colossians 3. He talked about Christ being all, then He says; *“You have put on the new man renewed in knowledge after the image of God who created Him.”*

He created this new man, this new creature, as a result of the new birth and it is in Christ. He is *“Created after the image of Him”* who created it after the image of Christ.

Watch this, *“Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, where there is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, where there is neither Barbarian, Scythian, bond or free, but Christ is all.”*

What I am saying, is this; that man or woman who is saved, who knows God and is born again with a new nature and a new life. He is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him who created him, in Christ, and those people know no national distinctions.

There is no Greek or Jew. There is no black or white. There is no red or yellow. There is no Chinese or American or English. He is our nationality. He is our Fatherland. He is our culture. There is neither Greek nor Jew in Christ. That’s right; in Christ they are one.

Do you see that? There is neither Greek nor Jew in Christ. *“Christ is all.”* He is our Fatherland; He is our culture; He is our nationality; it is Christ.

Not only that, but in Christ there is no ceremonial distinction. People around the world have all these different ceremonies, rituals and things like that. He said, *“In Christ there is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision.”*

In other words, Christ is our altar, Christ is our Sabbath, Christ is our temple, and Christ is our ceremony. Do you see what I am saying? *“We worship God in Spirit and in Truth and rejoice in Christ Jesus.”* We have not ritual. We have no ceremony; it is heart worship.

God is a Spirit. *“They that worship Him, worship Him in spirit and in truth.”* The living God *“does not dwell in temples made with hands.”* He doesn’t need these visual aids



that we bring. People bring candles and all this sort of thing. Christ is our ceremony, our altar, our Sabbath and our circumcision.

In Christ, there is no social distinction. Watch this, that new man created in Christ has no national distinction, no ceremonial distinction and there is no social distinction. In other words, *“In Christ, there is neither Barbarian, Scythian, bond, (a man who is in slavery), or free.”*

All social, material, educational, human, distinctions fall before the grace of God. Pride is destroyed forever by the presence of Christ. There is no high and low, rich and poor, influential, male or female. There is one body and they all serve the one Head, Jesus Christ. *“Christ is all.”* Do you see what I am saying?

Here is where teachers and preachers miss it. This is the error their preaching. In the grand design of God by this whole new heaven and new earth, *“Christ is all.”* He is all in redemption, in salvation and in everything; *“Christ is all.”* In the new man, *“Christ is all.”* He is our *“Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption.”*

We have so many different societies today. This person won't speak to that person. This one is above that one. This one is underneath that one. This one rules over that one. This one is richer than that one. One is more educated than the other, but not in Christ.

That is carnality and that is flesh religion. That is merit and that is works. That is not Christ. In Christ, there is neither *“circumcision or uncircumcision, Greek nor Jew, Barbarian, Scythian, bond or free. Christ is all.”*

I will tell you something else; *“Christ is all”* by way of example and motive by the conduct and conversation of His people. Whatever I do in word or deed; *“I do it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.”*

Finally, here are four areas where people have a struggle before the issue is settled and they come to Christ. I will tell you what they are, briefly:

First of all: His Righteousness or mine, I can't have both. Mine has to be put away, *“It is filthy rags”* and His is that Righteousness that I covet, seek, and receive.

Secondly: It is His regeneration or my decision. Salvation is not by decision; it is by the power of God. This issue has to be settled. Did I save myself or did He save me? If I am resting in an old experience that stays old, it is fatal. I rest in a new life given me by God.

Thirdly: Is it His glory or my glory? It cannot be both. *“No man can have two Masters.”* It is His glory or my glory. What am I seeking, His glory or mine?

Fourthly: Is He the Lord of my life or am I still the master? Am I still trying to run things? Is He the Lord? Is He my Lord? *“I count all things but loss for the knowledge of Christ, my Lord and my God.”*