

The Wednesday Word, Oct. 27, 2010: The Person and Work of the Substitute

Because Christ died, we have life and grace abounding towards us (2 Cor 9:8). But are we satisfied with God's abounding grace which He so clearly demonstrated in the gospel? It would seem not! Many who claim to be believers spend their lives jumping from one new Christian fad to the next, ever looking for some new and better experience. They pay lip service to our great substitute, but when it comes to centering their lives on Him and His objective gospel they say they must have something more. Apparently, Christ and His cross are not 'deep' enough for them. The gospel is for beginners, they say, and now they must go on to maturity. Thus they reject that Christ Himself is the very wisdom and power of God (1 Cor 1:24) and patronizingly sneer at the fulfillment and unfolding of the eternal purposes of God (Eph 3:11).

If, on the other hand, we for one moment caught a glimpse of the immensity of the person of Christ and His glory we would be awestruck. Indeed, as gospel driven believers, our growth in grace comes through beholding His glory (2 Cor 3:18). In addition, the more that we know of the glory of His person, work and offices, the more we will be totally satisfied with the gospel provision which God has made in Him.

It always strikes me as odd, therefore, that so many professing believers make so little of Christ. After all, He is the revelation of the eternal God and it is only as we know Him that we can know God. Job 22:21 tells us, "Acquaint thyself now with him and be at peace." But how do we acquaint ourselves with God apart from the gospel and its Christ? In the gospel, the Father has revealed Himself in the person of the Son (Jn 1:18). What an opportunity we have to, therefore, meditate much on God in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures!

If we look closely enough we will discover that all the attributes of God can be seen in the Lord Jesus. Indeed, the knowledge of God comes to us in Christ alone for He is the one mediator between us both (1 Tim 2:5). Christ is the Door (Jn 10:9). Doors either let people in or let people out. When Christ claims to be the door He is plainly stating that the knowledge of God comes to us exclusively through Him. It is only through Him and by Him that God conveys all His blessings to us.

Furthermore, our sin-bearer is the eternal Word made flesh (John 1:14). The Bible tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1). He is "the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of his person" (Heb 1:3). He is in the Father, and the Father in him (John 14:10); he that hath seen him hath seen the Father (John 14:9). He is "God manifest in flesh" (1 Tim 3:16); "His name is "Emmanuel," God with us; (Matt 1:23), the "Saviour" (2 Tim 1:10); "Christ" (Matt 1:16) the anointed One, filled with the Spirit without measure (Jn 3:34); "the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14).

He is the one who lovingly took our damnation (Rom 8:1) and it is this same one is with us (Matt 1:23); above us (Ps 57:11); beneath us (Deut 33:27); before us (Isa 52:12), behind us (Isa 52:12) and who is all around us (Ps 125:2).

As we learn to focus on Him and His glory we will discover how to not focus on ourselves. It is then that we will be fully satisfied with the gospel blessings of abounding grace and life that come

through Him alone.

And that's the Gospel Truth