

“To Know Nothing Except Jesus Christ”

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“For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2).

Read 1 Cor. 2:1-5

Paul provides for us the bottom line in ministry. Our present Evangelical culture has become intoxicated in its usage of current cultural methodology. Churches are often reflecting the current “fade” or “gimmick” as it relates to Church growth and ministry direction. Do you think what we are presently experiencing as the body of Christ is something unique or new to this generation? Perhaps we can argue because of modern technology and global communication the options are greater, but could we not argue that there has always been a pull away from the simplicity of ministry? I believe the first century Church was no less enticed by seductive voices calling out to abandon the straightforwardness of ministry for a more “fashionable” approach to reaching its current generation.

Today we are distracted by many things. Things that can be neutral and harmless become idolatrous and erroneous as they tow us away from the *sine qua non*.

Paul endeavored to keep the main thing, the main thing. When he came to the Corinthian audience he “decided to know nothing among [them] except Jesus Christ and Him crucified” (v. 2). This is not to say Paul did not know anything else, but it is to say that everything else known bowed before this centerpiece of truth. He says as much in Philippians 3:7 and 8.

⁷“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, **I count all things to be loss** in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ” (Phil. 3:7, 8).

Paul wanted nothing, not even the delivery of the message, to distract him from ministering in “demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (v. 4). And why was this so? “In order that their faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (v. 5). It is because of a wrong emphasis that certain individuals within the Corinthian fellowship began to align themselves to certain personalities. As a result, the fellowship became splintered (1:10-16). How does a fellowship guard itself against this kind of division, by keeping the main thing, the main thing?

The American Church has become a slave to the American culture. We have become religious consumers who shop around for the best financial deal that delivers the best returns on money invested, the most palatable tasting worship, and the most convenient self-serving ministry. And there is perhaps an element of necessity in each

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of the aforementioned areas, but it is possible and highly probable that in the midst of our consumerism, we have missed the bottom line.

We as individual believers must “decided to know nothing [while in this body of flesh] except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” If we choose not to pursue Him, we will become like Demas who, “having loved this present world, has deserted [the Lord] and gone [back]” (2 Tim. 4:10).

In all our areas of study, as important as they are, they are only spokes radiating from a primary hub and the hub is Jesus Christ. We can study Old Testament History, Leadership, The Pentateuch, Hosea, James, Last Things, The Usage of the Old Testament in the New, and a host of other topics, but in the midst of the study let us not lose sight of “Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” All studies are but streams flowing from His spring. He is the reason why these other studies exist. So as you pursue Him through the systematic study of the Scripture, remember to keep the main thing, the main thing. Determine to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. This alone is worthy of your energies and this alone will be the subject of eternity.