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The Necessity of Christ Being Revealed

I know that I just began a series on the inheritance last week, but I actually want to put that on hold and steer off another direction for a little while. I was actually planning on starting a series on the necessity of Christ being revealed last week, but what I shared last week was just so strongly on my heart. Just seeing the preeminence of Christ, and that all things are His, and only ours by gracious participation with Him. I planned on taking that into some teachings on understanding what it means that He was firstborn from among the dead, and then onto a discussion of the priesthood and the kingdom being the inheritance of the firstborn from among the dead, and then into how that works in us. That was my plan. I will probably carry on along those lines on Friday nights if you would like to come to that. Perhaps I'll also do that on Sunday's eventually.

But I felt like the Lord re-directed me back towards this other direction – having to do with the necessity of Christ being revealed. Or you could say, the necessity of seeing Christ. Or you could even call it the ministry of the Spirit of Truth. All of those would be accurate.

So I'm going to run with that this week, and we'll just have to see how far it goes. And to summarize what I'm going to be sharing – spiritual growth, spiritual progress, spiritual anything is impossible, in fact means nothing, apart from Christ, our life, being revealed. If you don't like that language – "Christ being revealed", then use "the Spirit of God teaching us the reality of Christ our life". If you don't like that try "growing in the true knowledge of God". If you don't like that, try "experiencing the mind of Christ working in you". And if you don't like that, try "walking by the faith of the Son of God". Now, if you don't like any of these, you should probably find another church, because you'll never fit in here. ☺

It is absolutely imperative to those in whom Christ lives, that Christ Himself be revealed there by the Spirit of truth. And as we will hopefully see, **nothing of Christ's will happens without Christ's mind working in Christ's body.** Does anything of your will happen apart from your mind working in your body? How could it be otherwise with Christ.

Well, the way that Christ's mind begins to work in His body is through the revealing of Him. The unveiling of His wisdom, understanding, knowledge. His perception, awareness, His mind. You have his life at new birth. The moment you are born again. What you don't have is his mind working in you. You don't have his understanding, His view.

I've used this analogy like a broken record, but if Jack was living in me, you could say that I had received the life of Jack. And yet, that is all fine and nice to have Jack in me, but it is another thing altogether for me to manifest Jack's life. Its another thing altogether to have Jack's nature and character formed in me. Until Jack's mind, his reality, his awareness, his perception, his comprehension, his "consciousness" (can I use that word without sounding like a New-Ager?)...unless Jack's mind is formed in me, my body, my vessel cannot become an expression of

Him. I can imitate him, but that is nothing of true manifestation. That would be a sorry and embarrassing imitation from Jack's point of view. Anyway, we'll start there today.

What happens when you are born again? How do you get "saved" or born again? Well, you and I come to the Lord through repentance. We come to the Lord through asking the Lord to forgive our sins. And at that time that is really all that we know of ourselves or of God. The only spiritual comprehension of anything that we have is that we are a sinner and God needs to forgive us. That is the sum total of our spiritual intelligence at the point of new birth.

Nobody comes to Christ as a sinner thinking about abiding in Christ or being conformed to His death. Nobody comes with any comprehension that "for me to live is Christ, and to die is gain". We don't come asking God to manifest the fragrance of Christ through us in every place. Can you hear what I'm saying? Those realities have not even entered our mind...and yet they are realities. The only thing that we know is that we have done enumerable things that He needs to forgive or we're in a lot of trouble.

And even though that is a very small view of salvation, it is true in itself, and is, in fact, a teaching of His Spirit and an acceptance and a view of reality by faith. It is generally the first thing that the Spirit of God is able to teach you. It's really the only thing that the Spirit of God is able to show you. It's the first thing that a natural-minded unbeliever can comprehend about spiritual reality. Now, you're certainly not supposed to stay there – that is not supposed to remain your highest thought regarding salvation – but that is where it begins.

We just say "God I'm a sinner, please forgive me". There is nothing else we know to say. We don't come and get saved as theologians or seminary professors. We come ignorant and in need, and we want to know the Lord. And that is perfectly appropriate.

And the grace of God which lead your heart to that place to begin with, works in us the miraculous reality of new birth. Christ Himself comes to live in you. Not a tiny little elf setting up his shop in one of the four chambers of your heart, but the Spirit of the Living God now residing in your very soul. In our coming to him for salvation, even with such a small view, a microscopic comprehension of our need, and a microscopic comprehension of His provision, even so, grace works new birth in our soul. Grace works a finished work into your soul. You come to a finished work of God that has been wrought by Christ and needs only be accepted by you. Finished in its completeness, though not in your comprehension of it, or its manifestation in you. We'll get to that.

But you'll never need to finish it. You'll only need to know it and manifest what He finished.

Anyway, as soon as you come to Him for salvation, and are born again of His Spirit, the Spirit of Truth Himself begins work in your soul. Or, at least, He tries to do so. And generally speaking, right as soon as you have come to new birth, the Spirit of God is able to show you some wonderful reality about what you have come to. Not very deep, not a large view at first, but certainly enough to make it all seem real, and true, and eternal, and joyful. Generally its enough of a ministry of truth in your soul that throughout the rest of your life on earth, you don't throw it away. You

may never have that fed, or nurtured, or spoken truth to, sadly it may never grow...but most people remain a Christian until they die.

Sometimes, that initial new birth, and the beginnings of the Spirit of Truth ministering truth to your soul, ends up being the only real encounter with God that a believer has their entire life. Everything else is done or built up in the memory of it. How real it felt. How true it seemed. How joyful it was. Sadly, that is often all that there is. One true encounter with the Spirit of truth, and then religion, doctrines, and works all built on top of that for decades to follow. Imaginations create a religion when, in fact, you have not come to a religion, you have received Life.

That is horribly sad. A finished work of grace. A finished work of new birth. And yet, never coming to comprehend that finished work. And so we live in and we live out our blindness and darkness, and we often call it light.

But at first, with a newly born Son of God, the Spirit of Truth is chomping at the bit, ready to begin taking down imaginations that have nothing to do with the reality that this believer has come to. The Spirit of God is desiring to "take the things of Christ and reveal them to you" But so often, that new believer does not hear the Truth regarding this new life. So often, this new believer is not given anything that the Spirit of Truth can work with. I can almost picture the Spirit of God saying "what was that sermon all about? I can't use that to teach this brother or sister the truth?" "I can use the Bible, but not as its being taught! Not as this person is hearing it!"

But if it is fed, that Seed in you will grow. If its fed, that finished work will have manifestation in your heart and emotions your will, your mind, your actions. That's what I mean when I say the Seed will grow. The Seed is not an unfinished work. The Seed is a finished work that awaits increase unto manifestation. Not a baby Jesus in you that needs to grow up. But a baby Christian that doesn't know what is true. If that new believer, that baby Christian, hears the truth, and wants to know the truth (that is equally important)...then the Spirit of God begins to confirm in your heart, little by little, everything of truth that it hears or reads. Then the Spirit of truth says "yes, that is so. Yes, that is the reality of that to which you have come. Yes that is now in Christ. Yes, that is no longer in Christ. Yes that is passed away. Yes, that is made new. Yes, you can lay down that imagination.". The Spirit of truth in your very soul testifies to the things that you have come to in new birth.

And then the written word begins to be confirmed and comprehended by that Spirit that is in you. And that is why reading the Bible becomes an entirely different reality after Christ your life has begun to be revealed. Not just a devotional time to collect your thoughts and remember that God is real and ask Him to bless your day. But now you're reading of the very reality that you have come to in new birth and all the while the Spirit of God is doing cartwheels in your heart saying "YES THIS IS TRUE!" He bears witness with your spirit that all of this is now true in Him.

And that is what I mean when I speak of Christ, your life, being revealed. I'm not talking about some vision or dream...all of those are outward experiences that happen in the mind or to the body. I'm talking about the Spirit of God taking the things that are true now in Christ and making them a matter of fact in your heart. Not a matter of belief. A matter of spiritual, literal, fact. Unseen, not material, but nevertheless, more concrete than material. Reality.

Because as soon as you are born again, the Spirit of God gets a new job description in relation to you. Well, not really...but what I mean is that for a while all He was trying to do was draw your heart to come to Christ. He was trying to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. And now that you are in Christ, and Christ is your life, now that very same Spirit seeks to reveal Christ in you as your life so that you will live in and by Him. **Now** the issue is knowing Him by the Spirit of truth and being transformed into the very nature of the Life that you have living in you.

You see, when you are born again, you are born again based upon a work that we know nothing about. All we know is that we're sinners. We have ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA what God has prepared for those who will come. We have no idea the reality of this death, burial, and resurrection. The only thing that a natural mind can comprehend is that it has to do with forgiveness of sins (and again, its terribly sad if that is all that a Christian ever comprehends). But there is an entire, finished, unsearchable, vast, infinite, measureless, brilliant work that God has wrought in Christ that you have come to.

It's a little bit like somebody giving you a new state-of-the-art computer with a 1000 Gig hard-drive, 10 Gig ram, High-speed everything, wireless everything, incredible graphic capabilities, an unimaginable software package....and you say "thanks" and you sit down and do nothing on it but play Ms. Pac-Man for the next 40 years. Its not like you don't have the entire awesome computer. Its not like everything that it can do is not right there available to you. **But your comprehension of what you have, becomes the limitation of what you experience.**

We don't know anything about this vast and measureless salvation when we get saved. We only know our perceived need - which has to do with a need for pardon. We only know we like Ms. Pac-Man. We know nothing about the ocean of divine brilliance and love and purpose and wisdom and redemption - death and resurrection - that has been accomplished in Christ. But, you see, the Spirit that is in you knows all about it. The Spirit that is trying to testify in your heart knows the deep things of God. Knows the things that have been freely given. The Spirit knows everything that you have come to, and desires to show it to you that you might live in that reality. Paul says "the Spirit was given that we might know the things that have been freely given".

The Spirit lures you in with Ms. Pac-Man but He built and programmed the computer. He knows what you have. He wants to show you what you've come to. He gave you the manual, but you flip through and only read the parts about Ms. Pac Man. And even the stuff that has nothing to do with Ms. Pac-Man, somehow you read it and apply it to that. You apply every chapter to whatever view of this computer that you already have. What a problem.

You see, first the Spirit of Truth convicts you of sin. First He says "Christ is the answer". First He says "Christ is Savior". But then that same Spirit begins to deal with you according to the truth of what you have come to in Christ. You accepted a Savior, but you don't realize that He is only a savior because He is new life altogether. More than that, he can only be new life if there is a complete destruction of what was already there. And so you have also come to a great death. And not only that, that death was more than His death, that death was your death. "When one died all died."

Do you see what I'm saying? You don't see any of that when you're born again. You signed up for a Savior. And yet, this Savior has a much greater salvation than just a pardon from sin. How do you come to know it? How does the reality of it become the reality of your soul? By the Spirit of God revealing this life that is in you. Revealing this salvation that you've come to. As Jesus says "the Spirit will take the things of mine and reveal them unto you". You need Christ revealed in you.

I know people, you know people...that come to a genuine new birth. Born again of Spirit. And yet decades later have little or no more comprehension of what they have come to in Christ then the day they were born again. And generally, these people have either found something in religion that they've fallen in love with, and so they're serving that. They came to Christ only because they didn't want to go to hell, and that was more or less the extent of their interest. They got their get-out-of-hell-free card, and then somebody told them to join a church, start tithing, read a Bible, and wait for a rapture.

Well, often they've either settled for something like that, or they have wanted more but are having a whole lot of problems, because they are trying to live a life for God that God has crucified with His Son. They are trying to live like Christ rather than allowing Christ to live. But, as we said in the beginning, **nothing of Christ's will happens without Christ's mind working in Christ's body.** You can't live by His life without His mind being worked in you by His Spirit. The revealing of Christ.

And fortunately, at the end of some of this religion or frustration, hearts will turn back to the Spirit of truth. Sometimes, at the end of such a fruitless life, or maybe just a fruitless month (it doesn't have to be decades. The sooner the better)...but sometimes a heart turns back to that Spirit of Truth and says "show me Jesus". Show me what I have received. Show me to what I have come. Show me what this computer really is about.

And then the Spirit picks up wherever you made Him leave off 30 years ago.... "As I was saying....". "Are you done with whatever it is you thought you were doing? "Now can I show you this one who is your life?"

And then he takes you right back to the very first thing that we needed to see before we ran off and built our Ishmael – as Paul says "do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ, were baptized into His death". The Spirit says to you "you see, when you started out on this journey...when you were first baptized into Christ, you were baptized into His death. That's what you came unto. You thought you were just getting forgiveness. And it's true, you got your forgiveness, but that was through death. Did anybody ever tell you that?"

No. Nobody ever mentioned that to me. They just told me to go out there and get-done for Jesus. They just told me to serve the church. They just told me to serve some leader's vision.

Well, the Spirit will first tell you that you are dead. You were joined with Him in His death. The Spirit will begin to show you just exactly what forgiveness means. How forgiveness works. The Spirit will do what He has longed to do all along. He will show you Who you have come to and what it means. He will show you what you have been freely given. He will show you all of your imaginations. He will destroy your foundation and reveal the only True foundation.

He will show you that Christ didn't die so that you wouldn't have to. He died so that you could die with Him and become dead to sin. Forgiven through death. Forgiven through burial. The putting away of the offence together with the offender. He begins right there if you let him. All you saw was a forgiven sinner, but God begins to show you some blood. **God shows you that salvation is not your getting better, salvation is Christ living in you.** The Spirit, if you let Him, and this is just the beginning, begins to show you just what you have been baptized into. And you've been baptized into death.

Now again, you can't know that when you come to Christ for salvation. Of course nobody knows that then. But the Spirit of Truth knows that. He knows all about it. He knows the end from the beginning of that reality, and will show you this baptism if you'll stop running around trying to perform for Jesus. If you'll stop trying to be like Jesus. If you'll stop trying to apply every Scripture to your life and let them testify to His Life in you.

The moment you were born again, the Father saw you dead with His Son. The Father saw you dead and buried. **You** see a pardoned sinner. God sees a crucifixion. **You** have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer you that live, but Christ lives in you. And the only question that Spirit of God wants to know is – will you let yourself come to share His view of what is NOW true in Christ. Will you allow Him to reveal Christ in His death, His burial, His resurrection in you. Will you allow that death to be your death? Will you allow that life to be your life? Well, you can't unless the Spirit reveal in you what you have come to.

You have come to a baptism. But John the Baptist tells us about that baptism. He says that He baptizes in water, but the one comes after me will baptize is the Holy Spirit and in Fire. That isn't speaking of two separate baptism. That is speaking of the reality of the one baptism of Christ. It is both His increase, and it is your decrease. It is both the impartation of new life, and the destruction of everything that is not of that Seed, of that kind.

This is a baptism of His Spirit and fire. The working of His increase and the removal of all of that which is you by nature. Your best bullock. Your best sheep. Your best turtledove. Your best anything. Its not refined, its destroyed. Were those bullock's in the burnt offering refined by that fire? Were the sons of Korah in the rebellion against Moses refined by that fire? They were consumed. Of the one kind there is increase, of the other there is fire. Are your carnal thoughts refined? No, cast down. Are your righteous acts refined? No they are filthy rags. Are your works of the flesh refined? No, they are dead branches and Christ says they need be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Your seed, your nature, your kind, is destroyed. What is refined then? Well, your soul is that which is refined. The fire destroying and consuming from it all that once was its nature and kind and character. Remember the cup drawing. Your soul is a vessel of a kind, a nature. Your soul is refined by destroying, purging, burning, cutting that which is not Christ living in you. The circumcision of your kind from your soul. But we won't get back into that. (We discussed that issue in detail in Love pt. 3 and 4 a few weeks ago)

My point is simply that the Spirit of Truth must show you what you've come to. And this is just an introduction. But I wanted to point out today that even when we first get saved the Spirit of God desires to reveal Christ your life. And though you know

nothing of this reality, other than forgiveness, when you are born again, it is true and finished and established in the sight of God. It is, in fact, the very truth that you have come to. Not waiting for you to finish, but waiting for you to comprehend and express.

And until the truth of what you have come to is worked into your heart, you will continue to be an expression of what you have always been. You may add on top of that that now your sins are forgiven, but in general, nothing of nature and character changes.

Let me just end by reading from 1 Corinthians 2. I'll try not to comment much on it. But let's look at it together.

- 1Co 2:1** And I, brothers, when I came to you, did not come with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring to you the testimony of God.
- 1Co 2:2** For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.
- 1Co 2:3** And I was with you in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling.
- 1Co 2:4** And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of *the* Spirit and of power,
- 1Co 2:5** so that your faith should not stand in *the* wisdom of men, but in *the* power of God.
- 1Co 2:6** But, we speak wisdom among those who are perfect; yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the rulers of this world, that come to nothing.
- 1Co 2:7** But we speak *the* wisdom of God in a mystery, which God has hidden, predetermining it before the world for our glory;
- 1Co 2:8** which none of the rulers of this world knew (for if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory).
- 1Co 2:9** But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard," nor has it entered into the heart of man, "the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."
- 1Co 2:10** But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.
- 1Co 2:11** For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of man within him? So also no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.
- 1Co 2:12** But we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit from God, so that we might know the things that are freely given to us by God.
- 1Co 2:13** These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which *the* Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
- 1Co 2:14** But the natural man does not receive the things of *the* Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.
- 1Co 2:15** But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged by no one.
- 1Co 2:16** For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.