

060820
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The Necessity of Christ Being Revealed pt. 2

Last week we started talking about the necessity of Christ being revealed. If you've been around here any time at all, you've heard me talk about the revealing of Christ quite a bit as I've spoken on other subjects. It is, in fact, only as Christ is revealed that we come to comprehend any spiritual subject whatsoever. But I thought it might be helpful to put together a series specifically aimed at the reality of Christ being revealed.

And as I mentioned last week, it doesn't really matter what language one uses to describe this reality. You could speak of it simply as the Spirit of Truth awakening your soul to the reality of being in Christ. That would be too long of a title for me, but it's the same thing. You could call it growing in the knowledge of God, growing in faith, or renewing of the mind. The problem with all of those titles is not that they don't convey the same thing. The problem is that they have all come to mean something completely different in Christian religion. I suppose they mean something different to just about everyone that speaks of them.

Its always that way. When you take the reality of Christ out of a Christian term or a so-called theological term, then you have the natural mind defining that term. And so the definitions range as widely as do the thoughts and desires of the human heart. So sometimes I purposely steer clear of terms that I think carry with them some religious baggage, some carnal definitions, in order to assist our hearts in starting over with a clear view of Christ.

So, everyone that is a Christian is aware, at least on an intellectual level, that Christ lives in them. His Spirit has taken up residence in their soul. But there is all of the difference in the world between Him being there, and Him actually living His life in and through you. As we said last week, **nothing of Christ's will is accomplished outside of His mind being formed in His body.** That is more or less what we are trying to demonstrate and what we are trying to realize in a greater way. **Unfortunately for the Lord, much of His body is trying to do His will apart from His mind.** That is a terrible problem.

Can you imagine if your body was trying to do your will apart from your mind? Can you imagine how horrible that would be? You would call that a "disease". You would call that a "disorder". There are actually diseases of the human body that do exactly that. If that were happening in my body, I might call it an "anti-Jason setting up his throne in my temple, my body".

I mentioned once, and I cannot remember if it was on a Sunday or not, but I mentioned a friend that I had in college. Chris was his name. He had cerebral palsy and had never had control of his arms. In fact, not only did he not have control of his arms, but his arms were constantly doing things that were not according to his will, his mind. They would have muscle spasms – shooting out in every which way. They often bumped things, knocked things over, hit people...all contrary to his mind.

He actually told me on a couple occasions that if his parents would have let him, he would have already had them surgically removed.

That sort of reminds me of something Jesus said. "Unless a branch abides in me it is good for nothing, except to be cut down and thrown into the fire." Well that's what my friend Chris wanted to do. He wanted to chop off these dead limbs and throw them away. His limbs were worse than dead. **His limbs actually had a mind of their own, a will of their own, movement of their own.** Well, my friends, we must come to recognize that we are dead limbs that have a mind of our own, will of our own, movement of our own, ministry of our own, glory of our own, EVERYTHING OF OUR OWN, until Christ is revealed in us.

And the worst part about it, from my friend Chris's point of view, was that all of his arm movement is done with His name attached. It was his body. It wasn't his will, but he couldn't escape the fact that it was his arm that knocked the vase off the table again. Oh, the things that Jesus' limbs do apart from his mind working out His will.

Listen, I can't tell you the number of times that I have had people ask me about the so-called practicality of what I preach. "Well," some say, "I can see that it is probably true, but I can't see how its practical". My goodness, what in the world is more practical then getting Jesus Christ's body to share his mind by the revealing of Christ? What other way are you going to get that body to do a single thing that is according to His will? Can't we see that everything that we might get a body to do apart from His mind, His will, His life, is nothing other than a counterfeit muscle spasm? Maybe a trained muscle spasm. A disciplined muscle spasm. But not a true expression of the head.

Let me tell you what I don't think is practical. If transformation is really the goal, I don't think it is very **practical** to duct tape my friend's arms to his wheel chair just so that they don't knock over any vases. I realize that might keep him from breaking vases, but has anything really been changed. Has anything of expression been accomplished? I know that religious conviction, or religious programs can act as duct tape to your actions, but has anything really been changed? You stopped cussing and drinking, but what has changed? Throwing you in prison will keep you from drinking also, but what has been accomplished in your heart?

If transformation is really the goal, I don't think it is very **practical** hook electrical stimulation up to Chris's arms in such a way that his arm shoots forward to shake somebody's hand. That's a nifty trick. "Seven Steps to an Artificial Handshake". But is that really Chris? Has Chris' condition changed at all? Does Chris' mind have any more expression in his body?

In other words, if our goal is truly to live in and by Jesus Christ's life, to manifest His life, in His body, by His will, I do not think it is practical to try to teach Jesus' limbs that their highest goal is self-restraint or controlled imitation. Practicality is necessarily bound up with that which transforms them into the vessel of what He is, and what He is doing.

If you want to talk about practicality, you must leave the entire realm of discipline and imitation because even if you "master" those things...you still have only plastic fruit. And Jesus Christ is not so blind that he cannot tell the difference between an

artificially stimulated arm, and an arm that moves as the instrument of His life. Even humans could never be so blind in dealing with our own bodies.

And so we have to leave behind this entire mentality that the will of the head is to teach the body to perform certain things. We would never agree with that in reference to our own bodies. But we act like Christ deals that way with His body "What would Jesus do?"...and all of that.

The will of the head is not to train the body to do certain "good" things. The will of the head is not to keep the body from doing certain bad things. The will of the head is to have a body that is the vehicle, the instrument of that life. Even in a natural body, the will of the head has to do with a body that becomes its expression by moving, feeling, living, speaking, acting, hearing, touching, serving, all as out from the head. Your purpose, as His body, is along the same lines.

What are you getting at, Jason? I'm getting at the fact that the most practical and important thing that can happen in the lives of Christians is coming to share that mind. As Paul says "let this mind be in you". "Be of no other mind". Or "if in any thing you are otherwise minded, he will reveal that to you". And I don't mean Him teaching you "how He thinks". I mean His very mind and heart being wrought in your soul because He lives in you.

Suddenly, when you begin to see it clearly, there is nothing more essential, more vital, more practical, than Christ being revealed in you as your life. Apart from this, you are a limb that acts according to its own spasm. Apart from this you can do nothing. Jesus says "apart from Me you can do nothing". "Nothing of life, nothing of Me, that is."

So, when you see it, all of growth, all of increase, all of maturity has to do with the one who is in you being formed in you through the revealing of Him. The Spirit of God working His heart / mind / comprehension / faith / truth / view / reality into your soul. And as that happens more and more, it is like an arm with cerebral palsy suddenly starting to wake up and move with the life from the head. Suddenly the will of the head begins to have expression in the arm. And then it doesn't really even matter what the arm does, because then its "not I, but Christ who lives in me". Then its, like Paul says "I labor and strive according to his power working mightily in me". Then it is "this arm can do all things through Christ who empowers me". Now that is the reality and context of all of those verses.

I am simply saying again, **nothing of Christ's will is accomplished outside of His mind being formed in His body.** And I'm hoping that through these analogies more of that reality will become worked into your soul.

Only that which comes out from him has any value or spiritual reality to it. Everything else is vanity. It may not be seen as such by the natural mind, but when His wisdom begins to work in your heart, you will not escape this reality. You'll have to face into it. Everything under the sun is vanity. When God's wisdom began working in a man named Solomon, he saw this.

Read Ecclesiastes and you will find a man who, by the understand of God working in him, sees all things of man, all things out from man, as vanity. I tried this, I got that, I collected these, I gave myself to that. All of it vanity, chasing after the wind. Wisdom makes you face it. Will you and I accept the wisdom that no matter what

you teach a human (and arm) to do or not to do, it is all vanity unless it comes out from Christ?

Anyway, I really wanted to approach the necessity of the revealing of Christ from a different angle today as well if we have time. And it has to do with the revealing of Christ as the way in which God now speaks to you and I.

I know that there are many outward ways wherein God can communicate things to human beings. He can maybe direct you to go somewhere through a dream. Or He can perhaps tell you something about a situation through a word of knowledge. Or give you a good idea about business. But I'd like to submit to you that the only way that God really ever communicates to your heart in a way that teaches you anything of Himself, is through revealing His Son as your life.

Now people are quick to argue with a statement like that. "Well, God sure did teach me a lesson when He let me go to Vegas", or "God taught me a lot through this class on church history". Well, I'm not really talking about lessons in the natural arena. I'd like to gently suggest to you that, even if God is involved in informing you of something there, that is not really the way that He teaches your soul. If God is going to teach you anything of spirit and truth, He is going to have to reveal in you the Person of spirit and truth Himself. He's not, anymore, going to give you outward lessons about Christ through types and shadows. He might have done that in former times. In fact, that is exactly what He did in former times. But now that you have that Son living in you, he's not going to try to give you shadows and analogies and types and hints of it through natural things.

Hebrews 1:1 *"Heb 1:1 God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us in Son,*

You see, in the old covenant God had the reality of salvation in His Son veiled in natural types and shadows. He spoke of it through killing animals, parting seas, building tabernacles, wearing robes, burning incense. The reality of His Son was veiled. How was it veiled? It was hidden in a multitude of types and shadows. It was veiled in times past in prophecies and events and ceremonies and natural kingdoms, priesthoods, deliverances, victories, institutions, and laws.

But God has in these last day (or one translation says, "at the end of these days") spoken to us in Son. Those things spoke about Him. Those words spoke about Him. Those institutions and ceremonies spoke about Him. But now the one spoken about is in us. And now for Him to speak, He has only to reveal this Son. Why would God try to speak about Him through outward things, when He can now show Him to be your very life?

Formerly he outwardly demonstrated a kingdom through a natural man Solomon. Now He reveals that kingdom to be in you. Formerly he spoke of a death through a bull, through a lamb. Now he reveals that death in you, works that death in you. Formerly, he spoke of a fellowship beyond the veil. Now He reveals that fellowship to be in the Father, where you have come in the Son. Formerly he prophesied of a restored temple, a heavenly city, a new Jerusalem, an everlasting kingdom, an eternal priesthood. Now he shows you the reality of all of that in Son. Now he speaks to you in Son.

And so for us who have come out from all of those types and shadows, He is generally not trying to teach you about Himself through outward situations. How much can he really teach you that way? He is generally trying to teach you Himself through the Spirit revealing this Son.

Let me try to illustrate this in an analogy. Lets just say that I decided to create a world out of Lego's. So I did. And lets just say, for the sake of the analogy that I was able to somehow give some Lego life to these little Lego men and women.

And I set up their Lego world in such a way that everything I created, in some way or another, gave testimony to me. How awesome I was. How righteous I was. How I loving I was. (This is a great analogy) So everything of this Lego creation spoke of me in one way or another. And lets then say that I conceived a plan wherein one day I would actually give these Lego people my awesomeness, my love, my righteousness, by actually coming to live in them. I know this is weird, but bear with me.

So anyway, these Lego people are pretty dense. They have little Lego minds that comprehend nothing of my world. They really can only comprehend Lego reality. How could I speak to them about human things if they can barely comprehend Lego things? I could never talk to them about myself or my world except by using things in their world to speak of it. For instance, if I started talking about the complex tissues in my eyeball, or the power in my biceps, or hugeness of my house...All of that is pretty cool, but it would mean nothing to Lego people. You could say that my ways are higher than their ways. My thoughts are higher than their thoughts.

And so I decide to take a group of these Lego people and begin to testify to them, through things that they can comprehend in Lego land, about myself. So I actually humble myself to try to communicate to them through outward Lego things about something that is so far greater and more real than all of Lego reality. You see, Lego reality is a realm that is much less real and alive and permanent than the human realm. Its not that Lego's are not real, its just that Lego Land is simply not human.

So I begin to talk to them, for a season, through all sorts of Lego land things. I speak at many times and in many ways through Lego-type things to the Lego fathers. In order to teach them something of my human power, I shake a Lego mountain. In order to help them understanding something of my coming reign within them, I raise up a Lego man as king over a Lego land, and have him remove his enemies. In order to help them understand something of my house, I have them build a Lego house, and I say to them "make sure you build it exactly according to the pattern that I gave you of the real thing". In all of my dealings with them, for this time period, I deal with them in establishing an outward Lego pattern of that which is not of Lego land at all. That which is, in fact, completely other than anything that they know.

Now they could never **really** comprehend my eyesight, my strength, or my house through the things that they have made in obedience to me. They could only, at best, comprehend the type and shadow of it. But when I actually come to live in them... if they are truly going to comprehend my view, my strength, and my house...they are going to have to let go of the outward testimony. You see, I could only teach them something ABOUT myself through outward realities of Lego Land. I could teach them outward representations of myself by shaking a mountain or building a house. Or, I might be able to teach them Lego lessons about going to

Vegas. But in all of that there is no real knowing me. Even if they did all of that perfectly, and said it was all for me, I could still look to them and say "truly truly, I say to you, you do not yet know me".

In fact, when Jesus became a Lego and came into the realm, he looked right into the eyes of those who were the leaders of the Lego types and shadows, and said "nobody knows the Son except the Father"

Anyway, in our analogy, if these Lego people were really going to hear me speak, hear me communicate myself to them, they would have to leave behind the ways in which I formerly testified of myself through Lego things, and come to hear me teach them myself, my actual life, through revealing it in them. And that is what came to pass in this little story.

Low and behold the fullness of time comes, and I work a miracle of grace and come to live in them. I don't just drop off another book on how to make outward things look more like me. I actually come to live in them. And I say to them, you can put all of these former means of communication away, now I will not speak in them, I will speak in Me. Going back to Hebrews 1:1...if you'll allow me to apply this verse to this analogy here.

" Jason, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the Lego fathers by the prophets, 2 has at the end of these days spoken to us in Jason"

Can you see what I'm talking about here? God humbled himself to speak to us about Himself using things of His own creation. He actually used Legos (humans) to speak of Himself. You know, he set Lego bushes on fire and parted Lego seas. All of that. Think of how little of Him could actually have been known through these shadows, and how He stooped to our level, to our comprehension to prepare in the earth a testimony of what we would come to in Christ. It was veiled. Hidden behind thousands of types and shadows.

But He humbled Himself and used the very elements that He had created to speak of Himself. Even the prophets. To use Lego mouths to speak of things they didn't even comprehend. Giving Lego dreams about an eternal inheritance.

And if we would stop and think about it, we would have to realize that in using such things He had left so much unsaid. How much can be said about a human heart, a human house, a human mind through Lego creations? How much, really? How much of a spiritual, eternal, unsearchable salvation could be said through earthly things? You see, beyond the outward shadows there was the actual divine thought, the divine heart, the divine mind, purpose, wisdom, knowledge, reality. And if we'd stop to think we would realize that there must be so much more to "God speaking" than God showing us things through His own Lego creation. Than just putting some words in the mouth of a Lego prophet. There must be the actual reality of it. There just be that which was not even Lego at all!

The things that God created, Lego Land, and Lego people, could in no way properly give a full expression to God. They could not really communicate Him, or what it would mean to live in Him, by Him. They could testify to Him, but not really teach Him. Listen, only that which was absolutely one with God, the same as God, and proceeded out from God could become that full expression. Only One who was in

fact God Himself being revealed in a Lego man or woman could cause them to see beyond a natural testimony.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. You see, this is the Word that can give God full expression. This Word, Christ Himself, is not just words about Him, prophecies about Him, a tablet of words describing Him. **This Word is God's very life and thought and expression and heart. This Word is not something God said, it is who God is.**

And so the question then becomes, have you heard this Word? How do you hear this word? This Word dwells in you. This Word must be revealed in you. James says "receive in meekness the implanted Word". Then He speaks of becoming effectual "doers of this Word". Friends, that is not doers of the written Words. You don't have written words implanted in you. No you do, express this Word as He is revealed in you.

Have you heard words? Or have you come to hear this Word? Why would He continue to speak to you in words, if He could speak to you this Word. If He could speak to you in Son?

How much do you really learn of Him if you continue to look without for the things that speak about Him. What do you think would happen in you if you looked to Him to speak this very Word of life to your soul. The revealing of Christ. The revealing of the Word that was planted in you.

Jesus says to the Pharisees "here is why you cannot understand my speech, it is because my Word has no room in your heart". Oh these Lego Pharisees who were so content with a Lego tabernacle, a Lego righteousness, a Lego testimony. So content with words. They were those who would not come to the true "speaking" of God. The God who formerly spoke in such ways, but now has come to speak in Son.

In conclusion, we are talking about the necessity of Christ being revealed in you. And sooner or later you begin to see that you don't need a bunch of words, a bunch of lessons, a bunch of instructions. To learn Him, to live in and by Him, you need this one Word revealed in you. Amen.