

The Bulletin of
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CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Preaching Christ...

By Dick Ward

Did you know that when Philip PREACHED CHRIST he preached MORE than just the idea that Jesus is a personal Savior? When the Jerusalem church suffered a severe persecution, Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ (Acts 8:5). What did he preach? What is really involved when one preaches Christ?

Things Concerning the Kingdom

We learn in Acts 8:12 that to preach Christ is to preach "things concerning the kingdom". Before his death, Jesus foretold of the building of His church and used the words "kingdom" and "church" interchangeably (See Matthew 16:18,19). People in the first century were IN the kingdom (Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). To preach Christ is to encourage people to be in the kingdom. No, the kingdom is not some future event - it is here and now!

The Name of Jesus

We learn from the Scriptures (Acts 8:12) that to preach Christ is to preach "the name of Jesus Christ". The preaching of the NAME is not just "repeating" His precious name, or making "casual reference" to the name of the Son of God. To preach the name of Jesus is to preach His authority. For example, Acts 4:7 shows it is the "power" or authority under consideration. Matthew 28:18 shows Jesus Christ as having ALL "power" (King James Version) or ALL "authority" (American Standard Version). Philip taught the lost in Samaria about the headship of Jesus Christ over His spiritual body, the church (Eph. 1:20-22; Col. 1:18).

Baptism

To preach Christ is to preach BAPTISM. Yes, the context clearly shows that Philip preached baptism when he preached Christ. Acts 8:12 says, "when they believed"..."they were baptized, both men and women". Not only do we see baptism as an essential part of preaching Jesus from Philip's work in Samaria, but the same evidence is gleaned from the evangelist's work with the Ethiopian eunuch. Philip began at Isaiah 53 and "preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35). Obviously, Philip preached to the traveling treasurer, baptism: the eunuch wanted to be baptized and he was. Baptism is part of preaching Christ. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Saul was told, "Arise, and be baptized and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). Peter wrote that baptism saves (I Peter 3:21). To preach Jesus is to teach baptism is essential to remission of sins (Acts 2:38). - *By Dick Ward - from The Religious Instructor - June 1999 Issue*

Times of Services

Sundays - 2:00 pm Bible class, 3:00 pm Assembly Wednesdays - 6:30 pm Bible class

Attention to Detail

by Mark J. Ward

Have you ever known of a person who gave great attention to details? I'm sure that we all have probably encountered a person of this nature more than once in our lives. The Pharisees living during the time that Jesus lived on the earth were very much of this sort. There are many things which the Pharisees were rebuked for strongly (and rightly so), but they were NOT rebuked for giving attention to detail per se. Let us learn a good lesson from the Pharisees!

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone" (Matthew 23:23).

Mint, anise and cummin were very small plants. The Pharisees were carefully observing the law of the tithe...right down to paying tithe of the smallest of their herbs! In proper perspective, this would be commendable and acceptable for the passage teaches "these ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone". Herein is a valuable lesson for us as growing Christians. Proper growth requires the proper diet, exercise, and priorities. Spiritually, we must feed on the milk and meat of God's Word. We must give diligence to rightly divide God's Word. We must keep a proper perspective on our spirituality. Some people are *all milk*, others are *all meat*. Some people are *all negative*, others are *all positive*. Some people are all social programs, others are too restrictive. **Some people are scripturally balanced...this is our goal!**

Many times we see Jesus Christ involved in some of the most pointed, corrective preaching of His ministry with the Pharisees as His audience. In the passage cited above, the Pharisees were wrong in omitting the weightier matters of the law (judgment, faith and mercy). But, they were not wrong in paying tithe of mint, anise and cummin! Are we ever "guilty" of paying tithe of mint, anise and cummin, or is our spirituality so shallow that we are not even close? Let us grow and give proper attention to detail and NEVER omit the weightier matters of God's law (applicable to us in this dispensation)! ***Thanks for reading. mjl***

***If you were on trial for being a Christian,
would there be enough
evidence to convict you?***

Editor's Note: If you would like a Home Bible Study, or would like to study further over the phone, or by computer, please feel free to contact us: Mark J. Ward, 445 Touchstone Parkway, Brunswick, Georgia 31525, (912) 265-6936 - markjward@yahoo.com

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Not the church of YOUR choice.

Romans 16:16 "...the churches of Christ salute you."

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