

*Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## *Who Is Jesus? Pt 5*

### **Acts 10:36-48**

**Keywords:** Acts 10, Preaching, Person of Jesus, Christology, Christ-Centered, Son of God

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**SermonAudio Blurb:** Peter is now ready to address the house of Cornelius, filled with friends and family of this Centurion. But what is his message? It begins and ends with the person and work of Jesus. In this short series we walk through his words to see the many qualities that belong to Jesus and see the utter centrality of Him in all things. In this message we will reflect on how the whole of the New Testament is focused on the person and work of Jesus.

#### **I. Introduction.**

##### **A. Read vs 36-48.**

1. Peace-Maker (36a).
2. Messiah (36b).
3. Lord (36c).
4. Historical (37a).
5. The focus of the prophets (37b).
6. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (38).
7. Sacrifice and High Priest (39).
8. Resurrected (40-41).

B. As it should be obvious by now, you must make some sort of decision about Jesus.

C. And this is the point of this sermon, to show not merely that Jesus is the focus, but how, if you focus properly on the person and work of Jesus then everything else tends to resolve itself.

#### **II. 14 Qualities about Jesus.**

##### **A. Focus of New Testament Preaching (42a).**

1. There is a constant need to ground all things in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

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- a. When those who believed the gospel in Acts 2 began to flee to other parts of Israel and beyond, they took with them the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ.
  - b. This is the task of all of us. We are not first and foremost to be known for our political status; for our financial goals, for our parenting and schooling choices, for our opposition to anything we deem evil or any other such idea. These are tempting and there is value in each of them but they are not what we are to be known for.
  - c. Note what vs 42 says: Christ, the One who died for our sin and was raised on the third day by God, ordered them to proclaim Jesus Christ.
2. 2 Corinthians 4:1-5, We read Paul, writing to a contentious, difficult church about what motivates him and his team in ministry.
- a. He recognizes that there is a spiritual battle going on and that his work is a work of mercy (vs1).
  - b. But to have a true and effective ministry for the gospel then it requires a certain mind set (2).
  - c. In vss 3-4 he makes a shift. What about those who are dying in rejection of the gospel? It has nothing to do with his methods or his message. He has made that plain, though I suspect the Corinthians were unimpressed.
  - d. And so Paul sums up his approach to ministry and the saving of souls in a worldly-weak manner. He and his team do not preach themselves. They only and always point to Jesus Christ.
  - e. In Paul's first letter to this church we find him displaying his conviction about preaching Christ and he does so right up front. And in looking at his words we are given a good lesson about what ministry should look like in our lives as well.
- B. So today let's walk through the first part of 1 Corinthians to see eight effects of preaching Jesus Christ properly. Eight different ways things work out if you are content to preach of Jesus Christ.
1. First, preaching Christ properly breaks down divisions within the Church (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

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- a. In vs 13 he makes the point. Who was crucified in your place? In Whose name were you baptized? And the answer is Jesus.
  - b. As long as we decide that Jesus is enough but only with an extra scoop of our favorite preacher or leader, then we have gone astray.
  - c. Rather, we need to always pull people back to Jesus Christ and only Jesus Christ. Remind each other who it was who died for us. Remind each other why we gathered together today.
2. Second, preaching Christ properly causes exalts God's wisdom and destroys man's cleverness (1 Corinthians 1:17-19).
- a. There is a need here to comment briefly about baptism. There are those who say that baptism precedes belief or that baptism saves. But this is clearly seen to not be the case. Paul was sent with the gospel (17), not with baptism.
  - b. Note the task Paul has. It is to preach the gospel. But notice how it is NOT to be done. Not in cleverness of speech.
  - c. So we can choose one of two paths with the person and work of Jesus Christ. We can preach it as it is written and accept that most will find it foolish and weak; or we can change it to make it more in line with the thinking of this age and lose Christ. But you cannot have both.
3. Third, preaching Christ properly makes it hard for a false believer to remain and easy for a true believer to be steadfast (1 Corinthians 1:20-24).
- a. How aware are you of your inadequacies? How often do you stop and ask why you are able to claim Jesus Christ?
  - b. The harder you preach Christ and the more you press His Lordship upon people you will see them separate quite naturally. They will ask for things such as a miracle or some sort of a nod to the sufficiency of man's wisdom and science. And you must offer them Jesus and let the wood chips fall where they may.
  - c. For the one who truly does not love Jesus Christ the answer is simple. To reject for one reason or another (23).
  - d. For the one who loves Jesus the opposite is true. He becomes life itself (24).
4. Fourth, preaching Christ properly places all believers in a right position under the Lordship of Jesus (1 Corinthians 1:25-28).

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- a. The gospel call demands you to bow to Christ. And when you see the gospel through the eyes of unbelief you reject it. You will not follow that Jesus for He is too restrictive or too holy or too something or other.
  - b. The gospel simply won't make much sense to you. Why all this talk about Jesus? It seems so weak. And so we plot and plan on ways to cleverly bring a person to saving faith.
  - c. But the mightiest of things produced by man, all put together, cannot withstand the most foolish thing of God.
  - d. And for all of us, we need to consider exactly what vs 27 to mean when we consider ourselves. Are you anything? Are you the exception or the rule?
  - e. You and I exist to be used by God to shame the wise and the powerful.
  - f. Through Jesus Christ God is in the business of bringing everything this age offers to nothing.
5. Fifth, preaching Christ properly shows the poor sinner the way of life, wisdom and righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30).
- a. But though this age has nothing to offer this is not true of Jesus. By the work of God, not our choices or labors, but God's, we possess Jesus Christ.
  - b. And look at the benefits:
    - (1) Wisdom.
    - (2) Righteousness.
    - (3) Sanctification.
    - (4) Redemption.
6. Sixth, preaching Christ properly directs our praise and boasting away from everything but Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:31).
- a. So the whole goal of the person and work of Christ is not us. It is to find our joy and glory and delight in Christ.
  - b. Whenever you see others more than God at work in your life you are out of balance. You feel like you are fighting an uphill battle. You think that if just a few things would get fixed than all would be well.

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- c. God can and will strip you of everything you deem precious until you see that He alone is worthy of your boasting and joy.
  - d. Jeremiah 9:23-24, *“This is what the LORD says: Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight, declares the LORD.”*
7. Seventh, preaching Christ properly makes Christ, not humanity, the focus (1 Corinthians 2:1-4).
  - a. So Paul comes back around to the apparent method of preaching he employed while at Corinth. And the people had their own ideas about his skills.
  - b. Ever time you see a website talking about how a church is relevant you have a church who does not know the Scripture. Relevant does not equal faithful preaching. It certainly does not mean Christ centered preaching. Because that would be foolishness and weakness and shameful things.
  - c. So Paul simply accepts that he is not going to win people of Jesus Christ because of his clever speech. He will not develop a major following because of his acts of great power and interest.
  - d. Note how absolutely opposite it is in vs 3. Why did he preach to these people? Because it was the only way they could be saved from sin and death. But did he actually do it because he was confident? Brave? Strong? No. But these also did not give him the excuse to not share the gospel.
  - e. Nor can it be your excuse. Any time you say you are not equipped enough to share the gospel you only show that you do not believe that the power to save is found in the gospel and not you. If you know enough to be saved by believing the gospel, then you have enough to share the gospel. And yes, it will be done in weakness, trembling and fear.
8. Eighth, preaching Christ properly requires that we entrust the work of saving and sanctifying to be found in God and not ourselves (1 Corinthians 2:4-5).
  - a. This is so obvious now that it doesn’t bear much comment.

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- b. But it is sufficient to understand that God is willing to go to extreme lengths to make the gospel seem absolutely stupid and shameful to this world.
- c. God is determined that missions and evangelism will go forth not on the feet of slick programs but faithful mouths who full of trembling speak the gospel.
- d. My hope is that as this sermon has progressed that some of you would be in the active state of repenting of your foolish desire to look good and respectable in your gospel work. That you would embrace weakness and shame instead.
- e. And that every person in this room would realize that never, on this side of eternity, will God work it some different way.
- f. Why am I saved? Not by my wisdom or efforts. Not by my ability to grasp spiritual matters. Not by my seeing amazing things of spiritual power. Not by seeing God repair my marriage or save my kids. I am saved in weakness by God's power. I am saved in my folly through God's wisdom.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. So Peter comes into this house to tell them one thing and only one thing. That through Jesus Christ you find:
  - 1. Forgiveness of sin.
  - 2. You find life.
  - 3. You find hope.
  - 4. And most importantly, you find your purpose and destiny by now knowing and following your Creator.
- B. But this is not all that Peter has to say. Next week we will consider the hard words that Jesus is not only Savior but Judge as well.
  - 1. Not a person who has existed shall escape that judgment.
  - 2. Not a person who has existed shall find a way to avoid a perfect and righteous judgment.
  - 3. And so even now the call is to all who will hear, turn to Jesus Christ alone. And be saved.

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**Benediction**

**Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing the good news of Jesus Christ, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen**