

The New Testament apostles were always insisting upon the primacy of the Person Christ - Paul, perhaps being the chief "insister"! (Insist upon the primary and you will inevitably interfere with and offend many living on the periphery - and, like the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles, you will be hated and persecuted for it!)

Paul's letter to the Philippians insists upon the primacy of centering in Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ is our center of living, all things become new (see Rev 21:5).

- WE HAVE A NEW FOCUS:

Christ is the subject, all else is predicate. Our focus, our subject is not fresh insight, personal success or effective ministries - it is Christ. Our center is not the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible Study, etc - these are designed to take us to the Center, Christ Himself. Our objective is not to identify all the boundaries of Christian behavior, but to know Christ - who He is, where He is - and how He wishes to be Himself in and through us.

- WE HAVE A NEW LANGUAGE/CONVERSATION:

We move from "How can I...?" to "Who can...?" It is no longer "How can I finish, complete what God has begun?" It is now, "Who can finish what God has begun?" (Phil 1:6). It is not "How can I live the life pleasing to God?", but rather, "Who can live the life pleasing to God?" (See Ro 6:10). We don't talk as much anymore about "fellowship" as we do about "fellowship." We have little to say about "trying hard", but a lot to say about "trusting Him." Our inner conversations are more and more centered in "not I,"... "but Christ" (See Ga 2:20).

- WE HAVE A NEW IDENTITY:

As living comes to mean the primacy of Christ, we find ourselves named less and less but the fallen voices of this world, more and more by God's "say so." We trust what He says and increasingly derive our sense of beingness from the One Who created and recreated us. There really is no need any longer to be sin conscious, law conscious, devil conscious, even self conscious. We are free to be conscious of Christ "Who is our life." (See Col 3:4). The more living means Christ, the more (in experience) we become our true selves.

- WE HAVE A NEW RADICALNESS:

When Christ is given the pre-eminence, won't I become a radically new "successful" person? Not really...! We will become radically new "sacrificial" persons. (See Phil 2:5-8). Our oneness with our Creator can never be something we exploit for our own interests. Paul goes to great lengths to press upon his readers the voluntary and sacrificial nature of Christ, and of those who give Him ascendancy. (See Timothy - 1:19-22; Epaphroditis - 1:25-30; Paul himself - 1:12-26; 2:17). It is easy to glory in a concept like "not I, but Christ", yet resist, and even resent its corollary - "Not I, but you". (See Phil 2:3-4). Sadly, perhaps, Philippians 2:21 could be more true of us than Philippians 1:21. For all of our talk, maybe living still means "me" instead of "Christ".



Praise Reports & Prayer Requests

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GREETINGS

Thanks for your patience as we rework our printing and mailing procedures. Some got their newsletter late, a few, not at all. Some had wrong calendar months/dates. But, we're working on it! Still ironing out the details on printing, folding, etc. If you experience any difficulties, please let us know!

Our Florida retreat for 2014 is fast approaching. This year's theme is "Shaped by the Cross." For all our talk about the work of the cross, the actual walk of the "cross-ified" life is often another matter. More than a one time, static stand of faith, there is a dailiness to the cross-formed life we often miss. Hope you can join us this year. Contact us for any details you may need.

Finally, if you are interested in a 2014 event - retreat, conference, church meeting - please contact us for available dates soon. We are already mostly full, but do have some remaining options.



CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

1-2 Sebring, FL (863-382-6265)
3,10,17 CCF
12 Alachua Study

DECEMBER

3 Ocala Study **** NOTE CHANGE****

JANUARY

17-19 San Antonio, TX (210-478-0618)
24-26 Leesburg, FL (352-431-3935)

FEBRUARY

14-16 ****One In Christ Retreat, Alachua, FL****

ALACHUA, FLORIDA WINTER RETREAT

"Living Means Christ" - Feb 14-16, 2014

\$280 couple (all inclusive)	Includes: lodging,
\$155 single (2 to a room)	conference fee
\$240 single (1 to a room)	& 5 meals

Or

\$65 person conference fee & 3 meals	(no lodging
	or breakfast)

Or

\$20 person conference fee

RESERVATIONS:

\$50 per person DUE BY JANUARY 14th

No reservation fee necessary to attend meetings only

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