

The Word of The Cross (Part 2)

The Word of the cross reveals the nature of God like no other word. All the thoughts, all the ways, all the activities of God are centralized in the cross. It is the premier statement of God about Himself. If in the Old Testament, characters saw the "backside" of God, in the New Testament word of the cross we see His face!

The Word of the cross reveals God to be Trinitarian. We experience God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We see the will of the Father - His passion for oneness with those made in His image. We see the choice of the Son - to pour Himself out in sacrificial love to effect that oneness. We see the compelling of the Holy Spirit - to make God known and apply the atonement to all our experience.

The Word of the cross proclaims through revelation and demonstration that God is a lover (Jo 3:16; Ro 5:8-10). He is God for us - not God unto Himself, but God with us. Because God loves us Jesus went to the cross for us, giving Himself to us as a gift of Love. (Beware of any revelation or belief that makes us self-indulgent... it is NOT the Word of the cross!)

The Word of the cross proclaims through revelation and demonstration that God is a liberator (Acts 13:39; Ga 5:1). The cross "does" and it "undoes". It "undoes" us from all that was not from God in the first place, severing us from our former (false) selves. It "does" what we can never do, liberating us to live by the free supply of His Life. (Beware of any revelation or belief that keeps you working on redeeming and renewing your old self... it is NOT the Word of the cross!)

The Word of the cross proclaims through revelation and demonstration that God is a life giver (Jo 1:4,12; 11:25-26). Religious man is always bringing an offering to God. In the cross, God is bringing an offering to man - Himself! God's life can never be imitated, duplicated, or replicated, but, it can be freely received because of the cross. Christ goes to the cross in our place so His life can be placed in us. (Beware of any revelation or belief that inhibits or quenches the flow of God's life... it is NOT the Word of the cross!)

The Word of the cross is our theology. It is that by which we test everything we call Christian. It is the culture in which and by which we are shaped into the likeness of Christ. Every statement we make about God must pass through the cross of Jesus Christ. Every claim we make about being the people of God must pass through the cross of Jesus Christ. In the word of the cross we hear and see all we need for life.



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GREETINGS

Our Florida retreat has just finished and it was a joy to see so many of you from all over the country come and participate in a full and fulfilling weekend of contemplating what it means to be "in Christ."

In Christ, we find our life and our breath - we discover who we are, whose we are, even why we are! In Christ we are freely handed all we'll ever need to be and to do all we were created to be and do.

In Christ, all believers share in the same Spirit. Each of us has equal access to all things God. We now have our home in Christ and God has His home on earth in us.

Once we are in Christ everything is different. We are ever present wherever Christ is. He is ever present wherever we are. In Christ our very beingness has changed - someone... Christ in me... who was not, now is!

In Christ the Lord what we do because of who we are and what we have has even changed. No longer excluded from the life of God, we have a full supply of His life for our every need.

Aren't you glad and grateful to be in Christ? (You may listen to our teaching sessions from the retreat at www.stevepettitmessages.com in the days to come!)

CALENDAR

MARCH

1 Boerne, TX (210-478-0618)
8,15,29 CCF
10 Alachua Study
20-22 Titusville, FL (772-563-0430)

APRIL

17-19 Monticello, UT


MAY

1-3 Waymont, PA (607-239-5006)

JUNE

3-7 Baton Rouge, LA (225-769-8844)

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