

The Christ-Centered Life (Christ-edited)

Most of us prefer to be our own editors - we want to prepare our own "material" for public consumption. It's really one of the worst mistakes we can make in life. We have too many blind spots, unknown biases, and too little knowledge of the unseen. Yet, we all want to decide for ourselves what stays and what goes. We want to determine by ourselves what makes for a good or a bad story. Some of the most dangerous people I have met - dangerous to themselves and others - are those unwilling to be edited by others. They guide themselves by their own light, listen only to their own voice, submit to no one but themselves and proceed to lead whole families, ministries, and churches into bondage and destruction.

If II Corinthians 1:9 is actually true, God will go to great lengths (in His love) to see to it that we do not "trust in ourselves". We will never tell the Christian story in spirit and in truth by being our own editors. In Christ, God is re-writing the story of our lives. He alone is adequate to determine what makes for an authentic human self. If we choose to be Christ-centered we are yielding all such determination to Him as our "Editor-in-Chief!" We must never forget that our union with Christ is a PURIFYING UNION. He is filtering out of us all that came from separation.

He gives us (at least) two editorial promises:

- 1) "I will finish what I've begun" - Phil 1:6 (As the Author and Finisher of our faith, He will have the final word and He will have no unfinished projects!)
- 2) "You will have no other Gods before Me" - Ex 20:3 ("That is a command and a promise - this story I'm writing will not be fiction!")

He will, in essence, speak the truth in love to us (Eph 4:15)... until we are divested of all that is not true and all that is not loving.

This means we can never live Christ by paying attention to ourselves. Once you and I decide that Christ is King - there will be a clash of kingdoms. The clash may be between "above" and "below", between "flesh" and "spirit", between "error" and "truth", between "darkness" and "light" - but there will be a clash! Since Jesus Christ is unbending Truth and unending Love, all that is not in line with what God says or in step with Who he is must be exposed so that all that did not come from God in the first place can be edited out of us. Such "conviction" of error is a gift of His loving grace. Our Editor-in-Chief will make no room for lies. He will cause every practice of self interest to fail us. So we may tell a free and fearless story of a Truthful and Loving Savior.

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 **GREETINGS** 

Our November 18-19 dates have changed venues. Originally set for Waverly, Ohio, those dates will be rescheduled in 2017. We will be coming to Louisville, Kentucky instead to share Friday and Saturday with Scott and Sylvia Pearce. Hope those of you nearby can join us as Sylvia and I share the liberating secret of Christi in you, the hope of glory!

I am so encouraged when I stop and think of God's people strategically placed throughout this country. One of the great blessings of doing what I get to do is to go from New York to New Mexico, from Texas to Tennessee, from South Carolina to Kentucky (just to name a few places) and celebrate the diversity of Christ's body and enjoy the beauty of God's dwelling places with so many of you.

We're not alone. We're not overwhelmed. We're not barely existing. We are righteously alive in Christ. We are sharers equally in His Life. We are more than conquerors in Him. Don't be tricked into believing the devil is winning. Our God reigns!

Steve

NOVEMBER

4-6 San Antonio, TX (210-306-4182)
8 Alachua Study
13,27 CCF
18-19 Louisville, KY (502-245-4581)

DECEMBER

****6 Ocala Study - **NOTE CHANGE**

JANUARY

6-8 The Hill, Hardin, KY (270-437-4172)
27-29 San Antonio, TX (210-478-0618)



2017 Florida Retreat



Tradition or Truth?

March 3 - 5, 2017 - Alachua, Florida

\$50 deposit Due February 5th, 2017

- \$295 Couple - (meals and room)
- \$250 Single - 1 to room (meals and room)
- \$165 Single - 2 to room (meals and room)
- \$70 conference and meals (no room)

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