

*I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel which was preached is not something man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:11-12 NIV)*

The Bible is not merely a “how to” book. It is not only a history book, nor a religious crystal ball or a philosophy book. At its core, the Bible is a revelation of Jesus Christ. We learn many, many things reading the Bible; truths that are historical, practical and academic; yet the core truth emanating throughout the scriptures is the revelation of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament accounts, whether of kings or priests, were written in anticipation of Him; the prophets encountered the Spirit of Christ and wrote of things to come as they ultimately pertained to Him. (1 Peter 1:10-11).

The biblical word, “revelation,” means, “to unveil” or “to uncover.” When the Holy Spirit directs us in the Scriptures, His goal is not only to give us religious knowledge, but to actually, in some life changing way, unveil Jesus Christ to us. Do we see Christ in Genesis as the ultimate fulfillment of God’s purpose and promises to Abraham?

Indeed, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, who had assumed the place of “experts,” in scriptural interpretations, saying, *You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me.:* (John 5:39). Eternal life is not in the Scriptures, but in Christ. The Scriptures “bear witness” of Him, but we must come to faith in Jesus to actually find life.

The Son of God revealed Himself to humanity, who in turn wrote of Him, passing to others both the revelation of Christ and His Word. Thus, the Bible is unlike any other book on the face of the earth, for it is the unveiling of Jesus Christ to Humanity.

Many books deal with interpretations of end-time events. All of them, invariably, include the author’s opinions concerning the last book of the Bible, the Revelation to John. But the Revelation is not merely a forecast of end-time events. Its primary purpose is stated in the first verse: This book is *the Revelation of Jesus Christ!* Without seeing Christ as the triumphant Lord, manifested through end-time events, this book becomes a book of speculation rather than revelation. In every warning there are those who possess the revelation of Jesus Christ and through Christ, they triumph over *the beast, the false prophet, and, the dragon.*

The Bible is not only a revelation of Jesus Christ, but so also is the Church. Indeed, the Church is called, *the body of Christ.* The purpose of a physical body is to reveal the thoughts and intentions of its head. Thus, Christ’s body is to be the revelation of Christ, the head. When people see us, the presence of the Lord Jesus should be clearly discerned in our attitudes, words and actions; the world should behold Christ living within us.

In other words, Jesus’ hands cannot help others if our hands are in our pockets. His love cannot reach others if our love has grown cold or bitter. His victory cannot be manifested if our prayers are silent. We are His body, the actual means He has chosen to express and reveal Himself to the world. Paul wrote, *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?* (1 Cor. 6:15).

Because the Spirit of Christ actually dwells in our spirits, the expression of His will through us empowers us to serve as His body. Even as the purpose of the Bible is to reveal

Jesus, so the primary purpose of the church is to give Jesus arms and legs, lips and a heart – a functioning body to make His nature known.

We are to understand, there are two beings living in our body; you and the Spirit of Jesus Christ. As we yield to Christ, we grow in, *all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ.* (Eph. 4:15).

Spiritual maturity is nothing less than growing up to the, *stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.* (Eph. 4:13). Consider Paul's great proclamation: *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me.* (Gal. 2:20).

Jesus does not only dwell in heaven; He also dwells in each of us who have asked God to, *let that which was in Christ, be also in us (me).* (John 4:17). We embrace the death of our old nature, *always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus,* with one goal compelling us: *that the life of Jesus also may be manifest in our body.* (2Cor. 4:10). We do not embrace self-denial for mere religious reasons, but that, *the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.* (2 Cor. 4:11).

Do we see this? The life of Jesus Himself is to be manifested, revealed and shown forth through our mortal flesh! This is not some deep teaching; this is basic to true Christianity! Nor is this a hope only to be realized in eternity. Those who say they abide in Him ought to walk even as He did walk (1John 2:6). If the vision of Christ living in you, is not a burning truth in your heart, you may have accepted a false version of Christianity.

This morning I want to ask you to consider seriously, Paul's warning: *Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you fail the test?* (2 Cor. 13:5).

Friends in Christ, just as the Bible is a revelation of Jesus Christ, so also are we. The Church is called to be a revelation of Jesus Christ. To God's name be the glory, great things He has done – and will do. Amen.