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Christ our Wisdom

Lesson 20: Christ, Our Wisdom for Living

http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/Education_ABE.htm

A complex life

The Christian life is lived in a complex world.

Our lives are made up of discoveries, decisions, and relationships that give us a sense of meaningfulness of our existence.

The problem we all face is:

knowing what is in life.

knowing how to get it all together.

Christians find themselves in conflict with the mindset of the unbelieving world.

Christ as the answer to our problems

The gospel shows us both the problem and the answer.

The gospel speaks mainly in terms of relationships.

God made all things to relate to each other and to himself in ways that he determined.

God made all things orderly.

The first effect of Adam's sin is a dislocation of the perfect relationship between him and God.

The gospel shows us that all broken relationships in the universe are the result of our broken relationship with God.



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The disorder that sin worked is referred to in the Bible as death.

Jesus Christ restores life by restoring relationships.

Jesus and Wisdom

Jesus made a very exalted claim at the end of the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus was saying that obedient commitment to him and his words is the only way to secure a life that has ultimate meaning.

The Scribes would have pointed to the collective wisdom of the nation as the means by which one learned to act wisely, and so find life.

Jesus demanded total allegiance to himself and His words as the means by which one learned to act wisely, and so find life.

Luke and the wisdom of Jesus

Luke's emphasis is on the humanity of Christ: Christ was filled with wisdom and God's favor was upon him (Luke 2:40).

Wisdom is characteristic of man in relation to God.

In wisdom and grace, Jesus perfectly fulfilled the role of Israel and of redeemed mankind to be the Son of God in perfect relationship with the Father.

The one who is restored to friendship with God is the wise man.



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One greater than Solomon

The religious teachers became increasingly unwilling to accept the ministry of Jesus.

The pagan queen of Sheba was able to recognize the greatness and wisdom of Solomon (Luke 11:29-32).

One greater than Solomon is here and the Jews, who have the privileges of the covenant and the revelation of God, do not recognize Christ.

Solomon epitomized Israelite wisdom, but Christ is Wisdom incarnate.

The wisdom of Israel has gone astray and those who should understand it are blinded.

The revelation of the wisdom of God, as truth to little children, is in the Son.

Christ our Wisdom

The wisdom of God, which is revealed in the gospel, is completely opposed to the wisdom of the world (1 Cor. 1-2).

The idea that the son of God should suffer in the flesh and die as the way of salvation was stupidity in the eyes of the world (1 Cor. 1:17-21).

The gospel, the message of the cross, is the wisdom of God for it is his way of restoring all relationships (1 Cor. 1:10,17).



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The gospel is also the power of God because:

it saves (1 Cor. 1:18)

it confounds the wisdom of the world (1 Cor. 1:19)

The wisdom of the world is condemned to destruction because it declares God's wisdom to be foolishness (1 Cor. 1:20,21,26 w/ Isaiah 29:14).

Jesus is both the wisdom and the power of God (1 Cor. 1:24).

Jesus is our wisdom (1 Cor. 1:30).

Union in Christ

The believer is "in Christ" as a union with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection (Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:3, Romans 6:3-6, Ephesians 2:5-6).

Our union with Christ is God's declaration of our position or status in His eyes.

On the grounds of Christ's merits, God is pleased to regard the believer as possessing everything that belongs to Christ (Colossians 3:4).

Believers are accounted by God as having been crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20), as having died and been buried with Christ (Col. 3:3, Rom. 6:3-6), and as having been raised up with Christ (Eph. 2:5,6).

When Christ rises to new life at the right hand of the Father, he physically and spiritually represents believers



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so that believers are “in Christ” and “with Christ” in heavenly places (Eph. 2:5,6).

Everything Christ is as the perfect human son of God, he is for us (1 Corinthians 1:30).

As our wisdom of God, Christ is our righteousness, holiness, and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30).

We still suffer from the foolishness of worldly wisdom, but in Christ we are perfectly wise (1 Cor. 1:17-30).

Union with Christ

Not only is our union a declaration by God, it is a real union through the Spirit of Christ in us (Romans 8:9).

What we are in Christ we have begun to be in ourselves in real time and space (1 Cor. 3:16-23, Col. 3:1-5).

Since by faith we have died in Christ we must also put to death what is worldly (Col. 3:3-5).

Moral transformation in the Christian is not separate from intellectual transformation (Rom. 12:2, 1 Cor. 2:16).

We possess wisdom perfectly in Christ (1 Cor. 1:30), but our growth in the Christian life is to grow in wisdom (Rom. 12:2, Col. 1:9-14, Col. 2:2,3, James 1:5).

All of man’s search for wisdom and knowledge is defective apart from Christ (Prov. 1:7, 1 Cor. 1:30, Col. 1:28).

The gospel has a controlling interest in all true knowledge (1 Cor. 1:17-30).



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A mature Christian is one who is able to look at the whole of reality through Christ's eyes and is able to act on that understanding (Col. 1:28).