

SERMON OUTLINE

'KNOWING CHRISTIANITY'

Study - 4

Philippians 2 v1 - 11

'What do we believe about Jesus?'

Key Text (v11) - "Jesus Christ is Lord" - the original Christian creed and statement of faith. See also - Rom 10 v9.

This is easy to say, but hard to live out in practice. Example - Polycarp, the Bishop of Smyrna, 2nd of February AD 156. And see - 2nd Corinthians 4 v5.

Key Question - What does it mean to say that Jesus Christ Lord? At least 3 things with respect to the gospel....

1. DOCTRINALLY - WITH RESPECT TO BELIEVING THE GOSPEL

What we have in this passage is a glorious statement of the Christian gospel which tells us 4 things about Christ.....

A. THERE IS WHO CHRIST WAS BY NATURE

See - 6. Jesus is equal with God - that is, Jesus is God.

B. THERE IS WHAT CHRIST BECAME THROUGH GRACE

See - v7 & 2 Cor 8 v9.

C. THERE IS WHERE CHRIST WENT IN OBEDIENCE

See - v8.

D. THERE IS HOW CHRIST WAS EXALTED TO GLORY

See - v9 - 11. The "name" here is not the name 'Jesus', but the Greek name (the title) - 'Lord'. The significance of this, is that (in Hebrew) this is the name and title used for God in the Old Testament - Jehovah.

2. PERSONALLY - WITH RESPECT TO **CONFESSING THE GOSPEL**

In other words - what does this mean for you and for me?

Key Verse - v10 & Is 45 v23. Paul takes these words in Isaiah 45 and applies them here to Jesus. Notice what Isaiah 45 says about God....

A. GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE SAVIOUR

See - Is 45 v21 - 22

B. GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE LORD

See - Is 45 23

In applying this to Jesus we can therefore say that confessing the gospel means.....

RECEIVING JESUS AS YOUR SAVIOUR

&

BOWING TO JESUS AS YOUR LORD

Thomas - "My Lord and my God."

Note - You will bow the knee, either gladly and eagerly or grudgingly and bitterly.

3. PRACTICALLY - WITH RESPECT TO **LIVING THE GOSPEL**

What is the evidence that our lives are being lived under the Lordship of Jesus Christ?

A. OBEYING CHRIST AS LORD

See - Lk 6 v46

B. IMITATING CHRIST AS LORD

Background to this doctrinal treatise - a practical matter of disunity in the church. See - v1 - 4. The answer to this? See - v5