

Christ, Our Only Focus

Word

Scripture Reference

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Discussion Questions:

1. Share with the group your personal sense of purpose in life.
2. Why is having a vision/mission in a church (or company, organization) very important? What difference does it make in the decision-making and direction-setting of the church (or company, organization)? As far as the church is concerned, what should be the church's objectives and distinctive which should make it different from any other organization? In all the ministries that the church does, what should be our content, and what should be the defining note of our messages that makes us different from any other organizations in the world?
3. In 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Paul mentions that his life's purpose was to preach Christ and Him crucified. What did he mean by this? How do you respond to the idea that the professing Christian churches around the world today are not united—that there are churches who focus on other things rather than in preaching Christ as its only message.
4. Paul lived in a social context which was very much like our own today—moral climate was worse, endless philosophies, political issues, social causes all trying to be heard and answered. In such context, what was Paul resolved to do in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5? How was Paul's message received by the Jews and the Greeks according to 1 Corinthians 1:23? Paul lays down the model, the example for all Christian churches to follow—he said that the mission of the church is to preach the Lord Jesus Christ and Him crucified. How is your church demonstrating this?
5. One of the aspects of Paul's message on the centrality of Christ is Jesus Christ's Lordship and Saviorhood. Lordship is Christ's deity and all the rights and prerogatives and everything associated with it. Paul was continually emphasizing this theme—that Christ is the God-Man, the great God and Savior. He deserves to be worshiped and obeyed. He is the Lord, the one to whose will we must subject our every thought, the one whose law must be our guiding principle, the one who is to be object of our highest praise and deepest adoration. What does it mean to have God as Lord of our lives? How does having Him as Lord of your life change how you live?
6. Discuss the theological implications of the statement “the cross is of no benefit to anyone if He is not as He said the God the Son of heaven” and discuss why His Lordship is frightening if He is not our Savior.
7. In doing the ministry, the reason why Christ is central in Paul's message and ministry is because Christ is the only ground of our hope. Nothing else works than this. The gospel is the only message that saves: Christ is our only Savior. No one else is qualified, no one else can save us, no one else can bear our sins. Christ and Him crucified is the entire ground of every blessings we can ever enjoy—both in this life and the next. What are the implications of the belief that “Christ should be our only focus and message when doing the ministry”? How is “Christ and Him crucified” a one-size-fits-all message for all situations?

Walk

This week, challenge yourself to love God more by living for Him daily—whether at work, at school, at home, or wherever you may be. Desire to be more intimate with Him by spending time to read His Word and interacting with fellow believers. Make time to get to know the Savior, the God-Man, the King of kings and Lord of lords who gave His life so that we can enjoy the fullness of the blessings He has for us. Today, don't make Him your primary focus, but make Him your ONLY focus in life and by the power of the Holy Spirit, may your life communicate Christ to the people around you so that they may be attracted to and accept our Savior Jesus Christ, the only hope we have in this life and in the next.

Worship & Prayer

Our gracious and loving Heavenly Father, we thank you for reminding us of the sufficiency of Christ in every aspect of our life and ministry. We thank you that Christ is enough and He is all that we need in this life and the next. He is the ground of every blessing we can ever enjoy, and the only hope we can offer to all people. May you open the hearts and minds of those who have yet to see and understand Christ and all that He offers, and may you use the church mightily to proclaim to all people of all generations the centrality of Christ in its messages and ministries. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.