

CHRIST IS ALL

"But Christ is all, and in all." Colossians 3:11

Christ is all. These three words are the essence of Christianity. Christianity is simply Christ. Without His person there is nothing left that is distinctively Christian. Separate any truth of Christianity from Christ and it has lost its peculiar character. Christ is the all, and in all. In Him all fulness dwells. He is all in the religion of all true Christians.

Is there a more crucial test of a normal human life than its attitude toward Jesus Christ? What we think of Him, in a large measure, determines what we are and what we shall be. In these days of electricity, it is the custom for some prominent personage to open world's fairs and national expositions by the pressure of an electric button. When all the many departments are ready, the simple pressure of the president's finger sets all in motion. What that electric touch is to the exposition, Jesus Christ is to the life, the home, the church, the state, the nation, the world, and the universe.

1. Christ is the center of creation

"In Him all things consist" or hang together. He is the invisible force which holds the worlds in their places; that prevents the mountains and ledges of rock, the iron and wood, from crumbling into dust and our bodies from dissolving into gases. If it were not for Him, everything would be ruin and chaos.

2. Christ is the pivot of the world's history

He has changed the method of even its reckoning. We date our letters not A. M.--in the year of the world, but A. D.---in the year of our Lord. While exiled upon the island of St. Helena, Napoleon showed the sparkling genius of his mind in many conversations. In comparing himself with the heroes of antiquity, he is reported to have said, "All these were men, and I am a man, but not one was like Him; Christ was more than man. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded great empires, but upon what did the creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus Christ alone founded His empire upon love, and to ~~this~~ very day millions will die for Him."

3. Christ is the sum and substance of the Scriptures

It is said that one cannot cut off, anywhere, a piece of rope made by the British government, but what a blue thread will be found running through it. This is to identify the rope as of government manufacture. And thus it is with Christ and the Bible. He is in every part of it.

4. Christ is the only remedy for sin

The guilt of sin is the sting of conscience. It cannot be reasoned out of existence. It cannot be educated out of the life. It cannot be legislated out of society. There is forgiveness only through Jesus Christ. He alone can save.

5. Christ is the satisfaction of the human heart

The world is full of unrest. There is a void in every heart which only Christ can fill; an intense longing which only Christ can satisfy. Life without Christ is a failure. The supreme personality, the most unique person, incomparable and unconquerable, Christ is all and in all.

There are three ways to know a person. One way is that of hearsay. A second way is to be given a personal introduction. The third way is to be acquainted with the person and know him intimately for a number of years. Thus people know Christ. There are many to whom Christ is nothing; He scarcely enters into their thoughts. There are others to whom Christ is something but not much. Others think Him to be much, but not all. But, Paul says, "Christ is all."

I. Christ Is All To God.

1. The only begotten Son
2. The One atoning Sacrifice
3. The only Mediator
4. The appointed Judge

II. Christ Is All To Us.

He is the center and circumference of truth, the Alpha and Omega of our lives, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Christ is everything to us. Put what you will in the balance with Christ and He will infinitely out-weigh it. Is life sweet? Christ is better. He is the supreme good. He is a sufficient good. He who hath Christ, needs no more; he who hath the ocean, needs not the cistern. Christ is all---

1. In a sinner's justification before God
 - (1) His righteousness is the only robe which can cover us
"He is made to us righteousness."
 - (2) His name is our only shibboleth at the gate of heaven
 - (3) His blood is the only mark that can save us from destruction
2. In a Christian's sanctification
"He is made to us sanctification." He it is that sends His Spirit into our hearts to be a refiner's fire, to burn up our dross, and make our graces sparkle like gold in the furnace.
 - (1) No man is holy until he is united to Christ
 - (2) No man grows in holiness except he abide in Christ
3. In a Christian's strength
A Christian's strength lies in Christ. He is able to resist temptation and do his duty through Christ strengthening him. There is enough strength in Him to scatter all our fears, remove all our burdens, and supply all our needs. There is no defect in Him who is infinite.
4. In a Christian's comfort
A saved soul has many sorrows and trials. These would be unbearable but for Christ. We talk about the preciousness of sympathy, but there is no sympathy like that of Christ. In Him alone there is no failure. Rich men are disappointed in their wealth, learned men are disappointed in their books, and statesmen are disappointed in their places; but no one was ever disappointed in Christ.
5. In a Christian's hopes for the future
The unsaved person has no hope for the future. The Christian has a good and blessed hope. When we get to heaven:---
 - (1) His Person will be our grand object
 - (2) His Praise will be our eternal song
 - (3) His Service will be our one occupation
 - (4) His Presence will be our one everlasting enjoyment

Christ is all and in all. Think of what Christ is to men. (Clipping)
Thus, we see that He is answerable to every condition. He is a Physician to heal, a Counsellor to advise, a King to govern, a Friend to sympathize, and a Father to provide. He is a Foundation to sustain, a Root to enliven, and a Fountain to refresh. He is the Shadow from the heat, the Bread of Life, the Morning Star, the Sun of Righteousness----all and in all. Therefore,
MAKE CHRIST ALL:---

1. In your understanding
Be ambitious to know Christ more fully. We cannot know God except through Christ.
2. In your affections
Love is the choicest affection. Love is the richest jewel the creature hath to bestow. So, if Christ be all, we should love Him better than all.
3. In your abilities
"Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might." Do all in His strength. When you are to resist a temptation or perform a duty, do not go out in your own strength but go in the strength of Christ.
4. In your aims
Do all to His glory.
5. In your joys
"God forbid that I should glory save in the death of Christ."