



Sunday, Oct. 30, 2011: The Glory of Gaining Christ

Speaker: Scott Masson

Scripture: Philippians 3:1-11

Sermon Notes:

1. Though the early church faced hostility, idolatry, and immorality all around, they obeyed and turned the world up-side-down for Christ (Acts 17:6).
2. There is a power at work in the church today, which is the same power seen in the cross.
3. There is no limit to the effectiveness of God's vulnerability: it doesn't apply just to Jesus; it's also for us.
4. All things, including evil, work together for good (Romans 8:28); when we are weak then we are strong (2 Corinthians 12:10).
5. If we worship God rightly and are seized by the Holy Spirit, we cannot but live obediently before God.
6. When Christ finished His work on the cross, He sat down to reign as King with all power and authority, everywhere in the world.
7. Jesus is Lord, yet He continues to suffer (cf. Revelation 5:6). He identifies with the suffering of His people (Acts 9:4).
8. The apostles recognized that it was an honour to identify with the suffering of Christ (Acts 5:40-42).
9. On Phil. 3:8. Christ is of surpassing worth to you only if He is your Lord, and He is your Lord only if you obey Him.
10. The work of God done outside us is of worth to us only if He has worked transformation in us.
11. We are to place our whole trust in His Lordship and not in our own.
12. Paul says the symbol of circumcision was to represent faithfulness to our Lord and King; if we are unfaithful to the Lord, it's a false and useless sign.
13. Though Paul was exemplary according to standards of Jewish righteousness, he considered it all worthless compared to knowing Christ.
14. Paul's legalistic "righteousness" led to confidence in himself; he gave up what he was holding onto, making Jesus his Lord.
15. Jesus calls us to take upon His yoke, so that the burden of work is done together with Him (Matthew 11:27-30).
16. 'To be yoked' is a metaphor for marriage (2 Cor. 6:14); and marriage is a metaphor for God's relationship to his people (Eph. 5:32).
17. We're called to trust in Christ, to whom we are yoked.
18. If we are not following Christ, we're going to bring unnecessary suffering on ourselves and miss His blessing.
19. Partnering with Christ, we will be blessed and see fruit of our labour, because it is His work.
20. As a church, we're called to fit into the body, yoked with Christ, and to pull together in the direction he determines.
21. If we are disappointed or burdened, we are to come to Christ for strength and blessing.

Application Questions

1. What is the significance of Christ's sitting at the right hand of the Father?
2. Why would we see it as an honour and a blessing to suffer for Christ?
3. What is the relationship between faith in Christ, the Lordship of Christ, and the way we live (personal ethics)?
4. Do we trust in the things that we do, or do we trust in what Jesus did on our behalf?
5. Do we harbour resentment towards God for suffering we bring on ourselves by seeking to plow our own furrow (rather than following His lead)?
6. What does it look like to have faith and to trust in the power of Jesus?
7. How would I explain the Glory of gaining Christ to an unchurched person?
8. Am I willing to confess that Jesus is Lord?
9. What do my actions say about who is Lord of my life?