

Sermon Notes for October 23, 2005

## **Understanding Basic Biblical Theology And Its Impact On Your Life**

### **The Person and Work of Jesus Christ To Save Man From His Sin The Resurrection Of Christ “Why Did Jesus Have To Rise From The Dead?” Hebrews 10:1-4; 11-14**

There is a story about a **particular family who was watching the Easter story on television**. Although the entire family had seen the movie before, **one little girl** was particularly moved by the movie. As Jesus was tortured and crucified, tears came streaming down her cheek. She remained completely silent, with the exception of a few sobs, until they put Jesus' body into the tomb. At that point she suddenly smiled and then she shouted, **“Now comes the good part!”**

#### **Introduction**

##### **A. The EMPHASIS ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST.**

1. It seems that the church has a real passion for the cross of Christ.
  - a. many of our hymns speak of the cross
  - b. on many of our churches, we see a cross perched atop the church steeple
  - c. many, many Christians wear a cross as jewelry
2. In the “Passion Of The Christ,” we saw a great emphasis on the death of Christ on the cross.
  - a. showing the horrific struggle and pain that Jesus went through as He died on the cross
  - b. to show what He went through to die for our sins

##### **B. The LACK OF EMPHASIS ON THE RESURRECTION.**

1. **But . . .** did you ever think about how much time was given to the **resurrection** of Jesus in the movie?
  - a. granted, Director Mel Gibson wanted to show the struggle of Jesus on the cross
  - b. but the resurrection was given less than a minute in a 2 ½ hour movie!
  - c. in fact, if you had gone out for popcorn, you would have missed the resurrection!
2. Compare the number of hymns on the cross and the number of hymns about the resurrection in a **typical hymnal**.
  - a. **The Trinity Hymnal**
    1. 49 hymns on the cross
    2. 23 hymns on the resurrection
  - b. **The Hymnal**
    1. 56 hymns on the cross
    2. 20 hymns on the resurrection
  - c. **The Celebration Hymnal**
    1. 67 hymns on the cross
    2. 16 hymns on the resurrection

### C. The NEED FOR EMPHASIS ON THE RESURRECTION.

1. Why am I making this point?
  - a. isn't the cross the center of all Christian theology?
  - b. doesn't Paul himself say in **Galatians 6:14** – “May I never boast **except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
2. Well, we need to realize this about the resurrection.
  - a. **if Jesus Christ MERELY died, and DID NOT RESURRECT . . . then all that He was, was a “well-intentioned martyr”**
  - b. about the only thing that you could say about Jesus was that He “was” a good man, who showed us how to die
  - c. notice what Paul also said: **I Corinthians 15:13-14** – “**If there is no resurrection of the dead**, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, **our preaching is useless and so is your faith.**”
3. While, we **MUST** focus our attention on the cross of Christ, **WE CANNOT FORGET THE RESURRECTION!**
  - a. **because Jesus' work DID NOT END ON THE CROSS!**
  - b. for, **HE HAD MORE TO DO AFTER HIS DEATH!**
  - c. the cross was **not the culmination** of Jesus' ministry on this earth –
    1. it was an important step in that ministry
    2. but if Jesus did not go “beyond” that cross, we would have no hope at all, simply the memory of a good man who died 2,000 years ago
  - d. On one occasion **Michelangelo** turned to his fellow artists and said with frustration in his voice, “**Why do you keep filling gallery after gallery with endless pictures on the one theme of Christ in weakness, Christ on the cross, and most of all, Christ hanging dead?**” he asked. “Why do you concentrate on the passing episode as if it were the last work, as if the curtain dropped down there on disaster and defeat? That dreadful scene lasted only a few hours. **But to the unending eternity Christ is alive; Christ rules and reigns and triumphs!**”

### D. The Need To EDUCATE ABOUT THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CROSS OF CHRIST AND THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.

1. You **CANNOT** see the cross without the resurrection – **THEY MUST GO TOGETHER!**
2. So, let us look at the Bible's teaching about the need of the cross **AS WELL AS** the need of the resurrection.

### I. The FUNCTION Of The Old Testament Sacrificial System.

#### A. The CAUSE Of The Old Testament Sacrificial System.

1. The **sin of man.**
  - a. if we are ever going to understand the reason for the cross, we have to go **all the way back to the Garden of Eden**
    1. for what was **ULTIMATELY THE REASON** that Jesus came to die on the cross?

2. look at **Genesis 2:16-17** - And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you **must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, for when you eat of it **you will surely die.**"
    - a. after God created man, God desired to see if man could be in an obedient relationship with Him
    - b. and as you well know, man failed that test
      1. NOTICE man's penalty – "you will surely die"
      2. God meant what He said
  - b. man's dilemma goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden
    1. God demanded obedience and failure to obey would result in death
    2. so, after man sinned, He faced death
2. The **solution of God.**
- a. HOWEVER, in CHAPTER 3 of the book of Genesis, the creator God introduced **THE SOLUTION** for man's sin.  
**Genesis 3:15** – "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.**"
    1. **here in Genesis 3, God is ALREADY INTRODUCING THE CROSS!**
      - a. He (Jesus) will crush your (Satan's) head – FATAL
      - b. you (Satan) will strike/bruise His (Jesus') heel – INJURY
    2. **Genesis 9:4-6** – would explain the ULTIMATE requirement of the Redeemer - "But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. **I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man."**
      - a. "a life for a life" would be required for sin
      - b. BUT instead of man shedding his own blood, the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, would be prophesied to be the one who will die for those sins
- B. The CREATION Of The Old Testament Sacrificial System.**
1. After Adam and Eve were told of God's solution to their sin, they became excited that **the solution to their predicament would be immediate**, and that God would quickly send that Redeemer.
    - a. in fact, they thought that their first child would be that Redeemer, so they called him **Cain** – (to acquire; to possess)
    - b. when they realized that Cain would NOT be the Redeemer, out of frustration, they named their second child **Abel** – (vanity; vapor)
    - c. not only would God not provide a Redeemer to Adam and Eve, it would be thousands of years before that Redeemer would be offered

2. Instead of sending the Redeemer at this time, **God would institute a sacrificial system** that would clearly **“illustrate” that Redeemer.**
  - a. because “that Redeemer” would ultimately have to give His life by the shedding of His blood, the sacrificial system instituted by God would be a **“bloody” system of worship**
  - b. but UNTIL the death of that Redeemer, God would use **“repeated illustrations”** of the shedding of that blood
    1. the **place of the Priests**
      - a. God instituted Priests as mediators whose responsibility it was to oversee these bloody sacrifices
      - b. and, as the book of Hebrews says, “day after day” and “year after year,” the bloody sacrifices were made
        1. some estimate that at Passover time, some 300,000 animals would be slaughtered
        2. with the blood of all of these animals filling the brook of the Kidron until it looked like a river of blood
        3. the MAIN PURPOSE of the Priest was to oversee the killing of animals in worship – bloody, bloody, bloody
    2. the **place of the Temple**
      - a. these sacrifices occurred at the Temple
        1. here, individuals would bring their animals to the Priests who would slaughter them as if the animal were “standing in” for that sinner
        2. it’s hard to imagine the scene – the animal would be brought to the Priest, the Priest would tie the animal to the altar, slit its throat and then burn the body of the animal in the flames
      - b. this death and carnage would go on day after day, year after year

## II. The FAILURE Of The Old Testament Sacrificial System.

### A. The INADEQUACY Of The Worship.

1. The **inferiority** of the animals.
  - a. when you look at the Old Testament sacrificial system, you have to ask yourself, **WHAT WAS ALL OF THE KILLING OF ANIMALS ABOUT?**
    1. why animals?
    2. why so many animals?
    3. why so much blood?
  - b. It is easy to see that animals were inadequate to pay for the sins of man
    1. after all, these were animals and not sinners
    2. their inadequacy was obvious as the sacrifices were repeated day after day and year after year
      - a. over and over and over

- b. somewhat like a **“Spiritual Ground Hog Day”**
        1. Bill Murray as a weatherman in Pukstony, Pennsylvania
        2. Sonny and Cher’s “I Got You Babe”
        3. after he learned the lesson of humility, the spell was broken
2. The **illustration** of the animals.
  - a. the animals were a **statement**
    1. while the animals were inadequate to pay for the sins of man, they were a clear statement of God’s message to sinners
      - a. an animal, like a man, was a living creature – and while the blood of the animal was spilled, the animal, like a man, would die
      - b. therefore, the death of the animal would **“illustrate”** to the sinner that **THAT IS WHAT SHOULD BE HAPPENING TO YOU, THE SINNER!**
        1. **THAT ANIMAL IS DYING IN YOUR PLACE!**
        2. **THAT SHOULD BE YOUR DEATH!**
        3. in fact, on the Day of Atonement, the Priest was to “lay his hands upon the sacrifice” thus transferring the sins of the people onto the animal
    2. the animal was a clear picture of one dying “for” and “in the place of” the sinner
  - b. the animals were a **shadow**

**Vs. 1** – “The law is only a **shadow of the good things that are coming - not the realities themselves.** For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.”

    1. the **definition** of a shadow
      - a. a mirrored image
      - b. a reflection
      - c. a symbol
      - d. as if the sun is shining over a tree and casts a shadow
    2. the **application** of a shadow
      - a. the sacrificial system in the Old Testament was a “shadow” in that it **ONLY** illustrated and symbolized the reality of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ
      - b. **Pastor John Piper** called this Old Testament time – **“The Age Of Shadows”**
      - c. but . . . as **John Holt** once said: **“The shadow of a key CANNOT unlock a prison door.”**
        1. this was merely a shadow
        2. and not the “real thing”

- d. **Pastor Kent Hughes** said of his wife: Soon after I began to date my future wife, Barbara, **I obtained her picture – a beautiful black-and-white 8 x 10 photograph taken the year before we met** – and it immediately became an item of pre-nuptial “worship.” It was one of those bare-shouldered, sorority-style pictures so popular at the time. She looked like an angel floating in the clouds. It became my **portable hope**, most often sitting on my desk, sometimes in my car, at other times propped in front of my plate and my love-struck eyes.

**However, the day came when we stood before God and our families and friends and pledged our lives to each other as she became mine.** Suddenly I had gone from the possession of a one-dimensional portrait to the possession of the **real thing**, who smiled, talked, and laughed – a **real, three-dimensional wife** – a **living, life-loving soul!** And the picture? It remained just as beautiful, but from then on it received relatively scant attention.

But **imagine that one day** I appear before my wife holding the black-and-white photograph, and I say, **“My dear, I’ve missed your picture, and I’m going back to it. I really am attached to the silhouette and the monochrome shading and the matte finish.”** Then I passionately kiss the glass protecting the photograph, clutch it to my chest, and exit mumbling my devotion to the picture – “I love you, O photograph of my wife. You’re everything to me.”

**How absurd for anyone, once having the substance, to go back to the shadow.**

## **B. The INSECURITY Of The Worshipper.**

1. The **power** of the sacrifice.
  - a. it must have been very moving for the Jew to bring an animal to be sacrificed **IN HIS PLACE**
    1. the pulling of the animal to the Temple
    2. the wrestling of the animal to the altar to secure it to the four horns
    3. the slitting of the throat
    4. the burning of the body in the flames
  - b. how would you feel as you walked away from such a scene? **FOR THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN YOU!**
2. The **problem** of the sacrifice.
  - a. look at **verse 1** – “The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. **For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.**”

1. how absurd it would be to think that a person's sins could be atoned for by killing an animal
2. animals killed were merely an illustration of what needed to happen to that sinner – **THAT WAS ALL!**
- b. but most importantly, the death of these animals **DID NOTHING TO RELIEVE THE GUILT OF THAT SINNER**
  1. the conscience was still not clear, it was still not cleansed
  2. there was ultimately no release for that person's inner guilt
  3. this is why you don't feel any deliverance from your guilt when you:
    - a. give your money
    - b. go to church
    - c. serve in ministry
    - d. crawl on your knees to Mecca
    - e. become a monk
    - f. take 30 lashes on your back
- c. medical illustrations
  1. allergy medicine/shots – **YOU ARE NOT CURED!**
  2. kidney dialysis – 3 / 4 times a week – **YOU ARE NOT CURED!**
  3. you are simply "reminded" that you have a medical problem every time you take your medicine

### **III. The FULFILLMENT Of The Old Testament Sacrificial System.**

#### **A. The COMMITMENT Of Jesus.**

1. He took the **form of a man**.
 

**Vs. 5** - Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a **body you prepared for me.**"

  - a. the reason that the death of animals could not pay for the sins of man was that **IT WAS AN ANIMAL**
    1. an animal couldn't "stand in" for the sins of a man
    2. only "another man" could stand in for the sins of a man
  - b. **THAT'S WHY JESUS CAME TO THIS EARTH AND BECAME A MAN!**
2. He took the **focus of a martyr**.
  - a. the sacrifice of animals was **NEVER** to fulfill the needs of sinful man – **Vs. 8** - First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings **you did not desire**, nor were you pleased with them."
  - b. So, Jesus willingly and purposefully came to this earth and in the body of a human to die in our place.
 

**Vs. 9** - Then he said, "**Here I am, I have come to do your will.**"

#### **B. The COMPLETENESS Of Jesus.**

1. The **failure** of the human priest.
  - a. the Priests **sacrificed daily**
    1. because the Priest and the sacrificial system could not forgive sins, the Priests had to make sacrifices day after day, year after year.

**Vs. 11** – “**Day after day** every Priest stands and performs his religious duties; **again and again** he offers the **same sacrifices**, which can **never take away sins**.”

2. the continual sacrifice of animals was a clear statement of the inadequacy of the sacrificial system

b. the Priests **stood daily**

**Vs. 11** - “Day after day every Priest **stands** and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.”

1. the Priest was not allowed to sit because his work was “never finished”
2. **in fact, THERE WERE NO CHAIRS IN THE TEMPLE!**
3. **THUS THE PRIESTS WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO SIT DOWN!**

2. The **fulfillment** of the Great High Priest.

a. **BUT NOTICE** what is said of the Great High Priest.

**Vs. 12** – “But when this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, **He sat down at the right hand of God.**”

1. the human High Priest would each year take the blood and place it on the Mercy Seat on The Ark of the Covenant, **BUT HE WOULD NEVER SIT DOWN**
2. Jesus, the Great High Priest, would take His blood and place it on the Mercy Seat **AND THEN SIT DOWN ON THAT MERCY SEAT!**
  - a. His death was sufficient
  - b. He didn’t need to die again
  - c. God’s requirement **WAS FULFILLED** – “**IT IS FINISHED!**”

b. **THIS** would be the inherent difference between a human sinful Priest and a spiritual sinless Priest

**C. The COMPLETION Of Jesus.**

1. I have said all of that to say this – **WHERE DID JESUS SIT DOWN?**

- a. was it in the Temple?
- b. was it anywhere on this earth?

2. **JESUS SAT DOWN ON THE MERCY SEAT IN HEAVEN!**

a. **TO TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS DID FOR US, WE CAN’T STOP AT THE CROSS!**

1. as necessary as the cross was
2. as adequate as the cross was for Jesus to suffer and die on for our sins – **WE CAN’T AND SHOULDN’T STOP AT THE CROSS!**

b. for Jesus must take that finished work “from” the cross and take it to **HEAVEN!**

c. that is why **Jesus said to Mary appearing to her after His resurrection** – **John 20:15-17** - "Woman," he said, "Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward

him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "**Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'**"

1. Jesus had yet to take His finished work on the cross to His Father in heaven
  2. Jesus must present Himself to His Father to fulfill His purpose on earth
3. So . . . , IF WE DON'T HAVE A RESURRECTION:
- a. then all we have is a wonderful, well-meaning martyr – a good man who showed us how to die
  - b. **Dr. Joe Temple** – "If the Lord Jesus Christ had **not been raised from the dead**, if He had **not** been able to carry His blood into the **Most Holy Place and present it as an atonement for sin**, then the Lord Jesus Christ would have **died as a martyr for a forsaken cause.**"
  - c. Eminent Christian theologian **Dr. Louis Berkhof** said in his **Systematic Theology** book, "**Even in evangelical circles**, the impression is often given, though perhaps without intending it, that **the work accomplished by the Savior on earth was far more important than the service He now renders in heaven.**"

#### **Conclusion:**

1. Without a doubt, we **MUST** continue to focus our attention on the cross of Jesus Christ.
  - a. for on this cross, Jesus suffered the wrath of God for our sins
  - b. He took our sins upon Himself
2. But . . . our understanding of Jesus' work **MUST BE "COMPREHENSIVE"**
  - a. **sent by His Heavenly Father** to this earth
  - b. **born of a virgin** so that He would be sinless
  - c. **born as a person** so that He could die for other persons
  - d. **lived a perfect life** on this earth so that He could be the perfect sacrifice
  - e. the **wrath of God** placed on Jesus on the cross
  - f. **died in our place**
  - g. **but . . .**
    1. **JESUS HAD TO RESURRECT** in order to present His finished work to His Heavenly Father
    2. **THEN** He could sit down at the right hand of God to intercede for us

3. Early in the life of the Eastern church, a **Greek saying** arose that still lives in the Eastern, Greek, and Russian Orthodox churches today. Around the world this morning in worship services of these faith traditions, a Greek phrase is spoken with conviction among Christians who long to live out the resurrection in their lives: **“Christos anesti, alethos anesti.”** The one presiding over worship will say, **“Christos anesti” – “Christ is risen!”** And the worshippers will respond, **“Alethos anesti” – “He is risen indeed.”**

You probably don’t remember the name **Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin** nor should you. But during his day, he was one of the most powerful men on this earth. A Russian Communist leader, he took part in the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, was editor of the Soviet newspaper Pravda, and was a full member of the Politburo. His works on economics and political science are still read and studied to this day.

Bukharin had already shipped off many Priests, Bishops, and Ministers to Siberia. To continue the work of denouncing the faith of Russian Christians, **Bukharin boarded a train in Moscow bound for Kiev one morning in 1930.** Bukharin had not made many political friends, and so in order to make a name for himself, he addressed thousands in the public square of Kiev. For a **solid hour** Bukharin aimed his heavy artillery at Christianity, hurling arguments and ridicule. He took the assumptions of Christianity and deconstructed them at every point. Coming to his conclusions he surveyed what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of the people’s faith.

An hour later, when he was finished, he looked out at what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of the people’s faith. **“Are there any questions?”** Nikolai demanded. Deafening silence filled the auditorium, but then **one older man began his slow but steady pace to the lectern.**

Standing shoulder to shoulder to the communist leader, he surveyed the crowd first to the left, then to the right. Finally, he mustered all the strength he had inside him and shouted the ancient greeting known well in the Russian Orthodox Church, **“Christ is risen!”** and en masse, the crowd stood to their feet and the response came crashing like the sound of thunder, **“He is risen indeed!”**

Nikolai Bukharin was executed for treason in 1938.

1. What did the continual sacrificing of animals in the Old Testament signify about the sin of man? Why were animal sacrifices not sufficient to forgive man for his sin? (See Hebrews 10:1-2.)
2. What does it mean that the sacrifices were a “shadow” of the coming Messiah? If Jesus “fulfills” the shadow, what does that indicate about Christ’s work on the cross?
3. Do you believe that the church generally teaches and speaks more about the cross of Jesus than the resurrection of Jesus . . . why do you think that is the case?
4. What is the danger of speaking more about the cross of Christ and not the resurrection of Christ?
5. Discuss the difference of the physical High Priest who “repeated the sacrifice year after year,” and the Great High Priest, who after He sacrificed Himself, “sat down” (vs. 12). Is this sitting down final and what does it mean to you as a believer?
6. After your discussion, what should the importance of the resurrection be to the believers, especially related to the intercession of Christ on your behalf?