

19:19-24 The Doctrine of the Crucifixion
The Dividing Line 02
Series: Who is Jesus, the Christ?
Reading – **Isaiah 53:4-6** 27th November, 2016

Last week we looked at the importance of doctrine. Doctrine is a word that emphasizes specific teaching on a subject. As such it is very important. There are doctrines in the Bible like the doctrine of Christ. If we have it wrong, it is clear that there is no salvation. This is an important thought for us to grasp. There is one way, a narrow way. Without it, there is no salvation! All ways do not lead to God. There is one way, one truth, and one way of life...Jesus Christ. To allow anyone outside of the way to continue thinking they are saved is to allow them to believe a lie and to go into eternity unprepared. It is disastrous for others and for us.

- What are the doctrines that the cross teaches?
 - Sovereignty of God. It happens in His time, in His will. Christ was never out of control. He laid down His life.
 - John 10:17-18 “¹⁷ Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”
 - Wickedness of sin. Sin is not passively bad, but actively wicked. If God doesn’t stop sin, it spreads...
 - Romans 1: Three times God gave them up, God gave them up, God gave them over...
 - Acts 2:23 “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;”
 - James 1:13-14 Let no one say when He is tempted, that He is tempted of God.... Our own lusts.
- We want to ask now, what did Christ do on the cross?
 - The importance of understanding this!!
 - **2 John 1:9** “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.” (1 John 2:22)
 - This is about the eternal salvation of people. How is a man saved, who is saved, can you know it, what is your authority for believing it? We must guard this doctrine. If we obscure it in any way, we obscure salvation!!!! We become guilty of the blood of these people!
 - Martin Luther looked for salvation for ~10 years. (1505 -1515; 1517 95 thesis)
 - 2 major differences: Scripture alone as sufficient and authority. Grace alone apart from works.
 - Scripture alone was the foundational principle. They called it the “formal principle.” It was what everything else stemmed from. It is the foundation that held the building up.
 - 2 Tim. 3:13-17 “¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”
 - 2 Peter 1:3-4 “³ As His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
 - So what is this other principle, the Material principle? And what does it have to do with Christ on the cross? (Emphasis is on ALONE)

- Grace alone. How is a man justified in front of God the judge? Grace alone or grace plus works?
 - Protestants said grace alone...
 - Catholic through grace at baptism and then mortal sin has to be atoned for in purgatory and by meritorious works....
 - “We experience the pain of those who share their whole lives, but cannot share God’s redeeming presence at the Eucharistic table,” they said, adding: “We acknowledge our joint pastoral responsibility to respond to the spiritual thirst and hunger of our people to be one in Christ.” Lund’s Lutheran Cathedral, in Sweden, Monday, Oct. 31, 2016
 - There are, then, differences between us that cannot be resolved here. But on this we are resolved: All authentic witness must be aimed at conversion to God in Christ by the power of the Spirit. Those converted—whether understood as having received the new birth for the first time or as *having experienced the reawakening of the new birth originally bestowed in the sacrament of baptism*—must be given full freedom and respect as they discern and decide the community in which they will live their new life in Christ (24, emphasis added). Evangelicals and Catholics together.
 - Far from safeguarding evangelical distinctiveness, the document relegated them all to the status of non-essentials. By expressly stating, “Evangelicals and Catholics are brothers and sisters in Christ,” the document suggests that none of the differences between Catholics and evangelicals involve any doctrines of eternal significance.
John MacArthur...
- Christ is sacrificed repeatedly in the Mass.
 - Hebrews 7:26-27 “²⁶ For such a high priest was fitting for us, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;* ²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.”
- Grace is given through the mass, then maintained by works. (Law)
 - **Canon 24:** "If any one sayeth, that the justice received is not preserved and also increased before God through good works; but that the said works are merely the fruits and signs of Justification obtained, but not a cause of the increase thereof; let him be anathema."
 - “¹ You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? ² This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? ³ Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?” (Gal. 3:1-3).
 - “¹ It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. ² Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law,” (Gal. 5:1-3).
 - Returning to works is a loss of salvation. Huge! By the law, no flesh should be justified. Rom. 3:20 ... Law... knowledge of sin...
- Christians, those who are Christ’s, believe that a man is justified by faith alone.
 - **1 Co 15:1-3** “¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are

saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you-- unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**”

- Legal term – Declaration of Not guilty. One time action.
- **Isaiah 53:4-6** “⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
- **Romans 8:1-4** “¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”
- **Gal. 3:21-26** “²¹ *Is* the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. ²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.
²⁴ Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

The question for us today is have we really experienced this salvation? It is the dividing line, either heaven or hell for us and for our family and friends. We cannot compromise on this. It is God’s way and God’s truth and we must hold to what He has given us. Lord may we be your light.