

## **PREACHING CHRIST CRUCIFIED IS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE**

1 Corinthians 1:22-23 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified. . .

The more miracles Jesus performed the crowds became larger and larger. The people were looking for the promised Messiah. They had many expectations regarding what the Messiah would do. Some wanted the Messiah (Jesus) to drive out the Romans and become their king comparable to David and Solomon. The reception of Jesus by the masses on the Sunday prior to His crucifixion demonstrated that desire. The four Gospels record multiple occurrences where Jesus was sought out to heal the sick and restore the deformed to wholeness. There were also the two miracles where Jesus fed large groups of people from a scant supply of food.

People today still seek Jesus for a variety of reasons. There are stories of “fox hole” pleadings by soldiers. Seriously ill people, who have had little or no relationship with Jesus, seek Him out praying for a miracle healing. People experiencing financial problems pray to Him fervently to make their money problems go away. The reasons people seek out Jesus are as numerous as there are people seeking Him.

In 1 Corinthians 1:22-23 St. Paul told the Corinthians that Jews and Greeks sought Jesus hoping for miracles and wisdom. He told them that that was not the Jesus He brought to Corinth. Instead, he said, “we preach Christ crucified.” Christ crucified is why God sent His Son into the world. Jesus came into the world “to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28) Jesus came into the world, “. . . not to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” (John 3:17)

Jesus taught, “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:31-33) This is why it is so important that first and foremost your pastor preaches Christ Crucified. Your soul is of first importance. Then, all these

other things (food, clothing, house, vocation, healing, etc.) God provides. He provides them out of love for you His redeemed, adopted child.

Prayer: Help me, O LORD, to keep my priorities in order. Lead me, O Holy Spirit, to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." And, Dear Father, I do ask that as You see fit you will provide all else that I need in support of this body while here on earth. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, And His righteousness.  
And all these things shall be added unto you! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find,  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you, Allelu, alleluia!

Man does not live by bread alone, But by ev'ry word  
That proceeds from the mouth of the LORD, Allelu, alleluia!  
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