

Philippians 1:21
Defining Christianity
Part I

Introduction:

For the apostle Paul he was not certain of God's plan for his life but it seems he did know that there were at least two opinions; either he would serve and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ through his life and ministry or through his death he would magnify Christ. Either way the Lord's Will would be done or His plan fully accomplished.

For the next two Lord's Days we will seek to define from Scripture a true definition of what is Christianity? Paul will answer this primary question for us in Philippians chapter one.

I. The Person and Work Of Christ

A. Wrongly defined by:

1. Christian character
2. Church organization
3. Liturgy
4. Historical creeds

B. Christianity is the person of Christ

1. "Who do men say that I am?" Matt. 16:13-17

C. Christianity is the work of Christ

1. His death, burial and resurrection – I Cor. 15:3-4
2. Christ's atoning work through His blood – Rom. 5:8,9; 8:32; Heb. 9:11-14
3. Our sin punished upon Christ and His imputation of righteousness to us – Rom. 4:1-8
4. Corresponding text: Phil. 1:21 and Gal 2:20 define Christianity

D. Faith in Christ

1. An acknowledgement that you can do absolutely nothing to save yourself – Eph. 2:8,9
2. An unyielding gospel – Gal. 1:8,9; Rom. 11:6

II. Fellowship With Christ

A. What springs out of this rich theology is our communion with Christ

1. A. W. Tozer's comment:
2. Cultivate our fellowship with Christ – I John 1:3
3. Doctrine must lead to fellowship – Acts 2:42
4. Breaking of bread – visible signs for a visible church.

B. The Seven churches of Revelation:

1. Comparing Philadelphia with Laodicea – Rev. 3:20
2. Things that get in the way – Mary and Martha – Luke 10:41,42

C. Following Christ

1. The calling of Christ's apostles – "come and follow Me"
2. If you are an unbeliever Jesus is calling you to leave your sin and self-willed life.
3. Dear Christian, Jesus is calling you to live for Christ and carry your cross – Luke 9:23 cf. Gal. 2:20

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