

Jesus Is All I Need, Colossians 2:11-15 – June 16th, 2019

- I want to talk to you today about a very simple but vital truth if understood, has the propensity to change how we live our lives.
- I am keenly aware that I run the risk of an oversimplification when I say it this way, but the simple truth is, Jesus is all I need.
- This is what the Apostle Paul is saying in the text before us today, such that, Jesus did it all, paid it all, for me, instead of me.

- It's for this reason that there's nothing more I can do to add to what Jesus has already done, and to try is an exercise in futility.
- Actually, this is why it is that Jesus as the way the truth and the life, exposes all of the worlds religions for what they are, false.
- The reason being is that religion is what man has to do for God, whereas Christianity is what God has already done for man.

- The problem is innate within our sin nature; we continue to strive for that which we already have in the person of Jesus Christ.
- In other words, we don't have to do anything for our salvation by virtue of the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross.
- I don't need to perform any ritual or ceremony because Jesus fulfilled them and now they become symbols of what Jesus did.

I like how one commentator so aptly said it, "every ceremony is completed and every requirement is depleted."

- This is why circumcision is now a symbol of the cutting away of the flesh and baptism is a symbol of being resurrected in Christ.
- As such, we are no longer required to perform these ceremonies because Jesus did it all, taking it away, nailing it to the cross.
- It's for this reason the communion celebration and the water baptism are not necessary for salvation, but symbols of salvation.

- By way of an illustration, my wedding ring is a symbol that I've been married just as baptism is a symbol that I've been saved.
- So too is this true when it comes to communion in the sense that I don't have to partake of communion in order to be saved.
- I partake of communion and am baptized as an expression of my identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

- This brings us to the aforementioned reason Jesus being all I need has the propensity to change the way I live my Christian life.
- When I come to the realization that my relationship with the Lord isn't predicated upon what I do for the Lord the burden is lifted.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest often times, what we do for the Lord, in our service to the Lord, can take us from the Lord.

Roy and Revel Hession in their book "We Would See Jesus," said it this way, "To concentrate on service and activity for God may often actively thwart our attaining of the true goal, God Himself. At first sight it seems heroic to fling our lives away in the service of God and of our fellows. We feel it is bound to mean more to Him than our experience of Him. Service seems so unselfish, whereas concentrating on our walk with God seems selfish and self-centered. But it is the very reverse. ...Christian service of itself can, and so often does, leave our self-centered nature untouched. That is why there is scarcely a church, a mission station, or a committee undertaking a special piece of service, that is without an unresolved problem of personal relationships eating out its heart and thwarting its progress."

I want to close with a true story that I think says it all. Harry Ironside shares about knowing a man who had suffered the death of his wife leaving him alone with their only daughter who was the joy of his life. This was long ago, and well before the time of Television when families actually sat together and talked together. As the story goes, it was during the winter with Christmas fast approaching as the autumn season had quickly passed by giving way to the busy-ness of the holiday. On one particular evening, the daughter politely excused herself after dinner leaving her father, only to disappear to her room for the night. This repeated itself night after night, until Christmas morning when she came running down the stairs with a nicely wrapped present to give to her father. He opens the gift and finds a pair of hand knitted slippers that his beloved daughter had spent all those nights making for him. The father graciously thanked her for the slippers, but then kindly speaks to her saying how he would have much rather had her with him all of those lonely evenings, than even ten thousand of these slippers.