

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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Christ's Pre-Eminence

By Stanley J. Voke

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Beloved Son of God, is either in the margin of our lives or He is at the center. This is the solemn issue of our Christian life which we must all face.

It is relatively unimportant where we live, what we do, what we possess, or who we are, but it matters very much what place Jesus has in our lives.

In Christian life, Christ should be the central objective of love, ambition, interest and activity, the focal point of life, the Sovereign Lord around whom all else revolves and to whom all else ministers and give place.

Edward Payson once wrote that "true religion consists in giving God the place in our views and feelings which He actually fills in the universe. We know there He is All in all!" In order to give God that place we must give Christ place, for God has set His Son in the center. Christ deserves this place by virtue of His sacrifice for us, He demands it by virtue of His lordship. He must be pre-eminent, central in all things.

Now many of us make a tacit admission of this. "Of course Christ is central in my life," we say. "Many years ago I surrendered to Him. I am a consecrated Christian worker, I pray daily, I preach frequently." All that may be true—but is it true experimentally that Christ is central? It is a matter of daily, hourly experience, intensely practical in its outworkings. We ought to check up on ourselves as to whether Christ is central or not:

- Is my life absolutely governed by the interests of the Lord or do my own interests govern?
- Is my personal walk with the Lord the most important issue of life?
- Am I jealous for the glory of Christ in every situation, or am I selfishly concerned with self-interest?
- Do I repent of sin, as soon as I am made aware of it?
- Am I sensitive whether or not something is taking the Lord's place in my heart?
- Is my mind so strung to the Lord that it returns easily to Him when it is released from essential concentration on something else?
- Do I always see the Person and Glory of Christ in sacred things, e. g., in the Scriptures, in hymns, in sermons, in other Christians, in church gatherings?
- Am I absolutely satisfied with Christ so that my heart is free from selfish love of things I do not possess, or from a lust for things which I do not possess?

To live with Christ as the center of heart and mind is to live in the spirit of revival.

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Revival is Christ coming into centrality with us, controlling through word and deed, imparting His own love, joy, peace, power, bringing into our hearts all that He is—wisdom, righteous, holiness and redemption, full, free, eternal!

The spreading of revival is Christ gaining the central place in one—and then another, regulating into the margin all else, and Himself standing in the midst of His people to give the Bread of Life to them, the same today as yesterday, that they may impart it to the multitudes.

To live with the risen, reigning Christ in the center is to live in the will of God in the true life of continuous revival. To allow Him to be crowded into the margin is to live in stagnation and defeat.

Examine Thyself

Is the reigning Christ, the exalted Son of God, in the margin of your life, or is He at the very heart and center of all you are, all you do, and all you plan and think?—Heart and Life.

"Did I Do My Best?"

Dr. Spencer, in the Northwestern Christian Advocate, some years ago, told the following most thrilling story of his room-mate, when a student in Northwestern University, who was an expert swimmer.

News came to the University of the wreck of a steamer, ten miles out on Lake Michigan, and of its four hundred passengers struggling with the waves for their lives. His room-mate volunteered his services, and hastened to the rescue.

Backward and forward in the lake he went for six long hours, and, by his efforts alone, seventeen, out of the thirty finally saved, were rescued. Says the doctor, "The daily papers were full of his praise. The illustrated papers of New York and London contained his picture; but when we were alone in our room it was pitiful to see him. His face would turn ashen pale, and he would fasten his great hungry eyes on me, and say, "Tell me the truth, Will; Every body praises me. Tell me the truth. Did I fail to do my best?" The question that ran through his brain like a poisoned dagger, as he remembered the three hundred more who lost their lives in sight, and most of them within hearing, of land—the one supreme question was, Did I do my best?"—Selected.

The prospects are as bright as the promises of God.—Adoniram Judson.

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Prayer

By Sidlow Baxter

We need a revival of intercessory prayer among God's own people. We do not pray enough. Besides intensifying their private prayer life, Christians should band themselves into cottage groups to lay hold upon God for revival in our own land and in every land.

Our most pressing need at this moment is to ask God to give more mighty prayer to all who can have at heart the speedy evangelization of every unreached soul—prayer that is strong, prevailing, believing, God-moving, hell-defeating, devil-routing, sinner-saving, believer-sanctifying, Christ-exalting, worker-producing and money-finding! prayer that takes all we are and have, to offer it to God, as it took all that Jesus had, on Calvary, to give us the right to pray.

But where in all the world are we going to get prayer that will do that?—the kind that Daniel offered, which shook the Babylonian Empire from end to end, bringing Almighty God into His rightful preeminence; the kind that Nehemiah offered, which set rulers running after him with men, money, and materials, to help rebuild the walls of ruined Jerusalem.

It was God Himself who inspired the prayer of Nehemiah, the prayer that made Jerusalem a new city. He drove His servant to his knees by the burden of a great concern for ruined Jerusalem. This seems to be the way God works. And will God give this kind of prayer today? Yes, through the Holy Spirit, God can give us the hurricane kind of prayers that make things move when nothing else can make them move.

Romans 8:26. We must get God's prayer—prayer with extraordinary consequences. Prayers which are merely our own are futile and get us nowhere. The devil fears nothing that man makes—not even his prayers! He only begins to feel alarmed when a soul begins to offer before God the prayer that is Spirit-inspired and which was born in the very heart of God Himself.

It is prayer shot through with the very blood and passion of the Son of God, filled with the power and persistence of the Holy Spirit, loaded with a burdening sense of the church's plight, and the world's appalling need, that sets the wheels of revival in motion.

God save us from trying to turn these wheels by our own efforts! It cannot be done. Let us beg God now for this kind of praying—prayer straight from God to straighten out every tangle and to meet every need.

When we offer His prayer, as put into our spirits, there will be no such thing as un-
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