

A Church with Purpose

Lesson 2- Christ's Legacy on Earth

INTRODUCTION

As we study the purpose of the church, it is important that we understand the legacy with which Jesus Christ left his followers. A Christian is a follower of Christ and the church is his body, so our responsibility as his church is to continue in his footsteps.

Read Philippians 2:5-8. What prominent points about Christ's attitude can be found in this scripture?

In this study, we will examine the legacy Christ left for us, so that we can better understand how we must live and our purpose in Christ.

BIBLE STUDY

I. The first lesson we learn from Christ is that we are ambassadors. We are not supposed to represent our own interests, but the purposes and plans of God. We are called to live for something greater. Read John 12:49. How did Christ determine what he did on earth and what does his example show we should do?

To fulfill the purpose of the church, we must be fulfilling our purpose as individuals. This means living, like Jesus, as a representative of God. Even Paul the Apostle called himself one of Christ's ambassadors (Ephesians 6:19).

Read Galatians 2:20. How does living as an ambassador of God change your perspective and your approach to everyday living?

II. This scripture also brings out another aspect of Christ's legacy. As Christ gave himself for the sins of the world through death on the cross, we are called to be crucified with Christ. What do you think this means for the Christian and for the church?

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Read Romans 6:11-13. Being crucified with Christ means being dead to sin. How should this change the way you live?

Crucifying your flesh also means we must identify ourselves with the sacrifice He made on the cross. We must be public about following Jesus and live a life that speaks of Christ. Read Romans 1:16 and Luke 9:26. What are some ways you can live out your faith publicly?

III. In accordance with a public faith, Jesus gave us a very important command called the great commission. In essence, he told us to evangelize the world. Read Matthew 28:19-20. According to this scripture, what are we to do both before and after winning someone to Christ?

First, we are to go and make disciples. As followers of Christ, we are called to share the message of God's forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. This is the most important legacy with which Christ left his followers. We are here to bring others to Him. Read 2 Peter 3:9 and Acts 1:8. What is God's heart for the lost? How does the church fit into the picture?

We are called to share Christ, but our work is not done. We are also instructed in the great commission to teach them Jesus' commands. This is called discipleship. Ask yourself, who was a major spiritual influence in your life when you were a new Christian? How did they help your walk with Christ? What does this mean you should do for young Christians? _____

This is Jesus legacy to us. As His life and death demonstrated, we must live as ambassadors of Christ, die to sin, have a public faith, evangelize the world, and disciple new converts to be like Christ.

CONCLUSION

Read Matthew 9:36-38. Evangelism and outreach are a cornerstone of the purpose-driven church. We are not made simply to meet together as Christians, but to work together and reach the world.