



Newsletter

Volume 35 #14

July 15, 2013

Franklin Road Baptist Church

Christ is our Message . . . The Bible is our Text

What would you think if I were to say, "The cross means nothing unless the sinner knows Who is on it"? It is a troubling, yet interesting thought. On the one hand, even if the sinner doesn't know Who is on it, it does not negate the fact that the Creator God is hanging there for their sins. Denying the truth does not eliminate its value (Matthew 15:14). On the other hand, if they don't know He is their Creator, Redeemer, and Savior, then there is no difference between Him and the two robbers hanging on His left and right. The sinner has made Him just a man, and that is not who He is. Jesus said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30).

Sinners need to have a proper understanding of Who exactly is on that tree. The youth group has been studying this summer the question - if you were to describe God to someone, how would you do it? How would you explain Him? Ezekiel 1 tells us that there is nothing on this earth that compares to Him: no colors, no images, no concepts. But, as we know, God has revealed Himself and certain qualities/attributes about Himself to aid in our understanding of Him. I also believe it was by superb design on the order in which He decided to reveal Himself:

- 1) **God is Holy** - God is totally and utterly set apart. This is found in Genesis 1:1 - "in the beginning God created...". What did God create? He created time. Time for Him? No. Time for us. God is not limited by our time but set apart from it. Every other god is created to live within our time constraints. He is not.
- 2) **God is Creator** - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being" (John 1:1-3). We did not inherit the earth. The earth is, and always has been, God's. We only get to live here. We (and all sinners) need to know our place.
- 3) **God is Sovereign** - God is in Absolute Control
 - a. He is in control of His creation according to Psalm 104: the water, the hills, the sun, the birds, the donkey, and the leviathan all listen to His voice.
 - b. He is in control of His people according to Ephesians 1: Before the foundations of the world, He knew we would need a Savior.
- 4) **God is Righteous** - God cannot look upon sin and accept it. There needs to be punishment for it. There needs to be a penalty. If people believe they do not deserve discipline then they have made God unrighteous (Romans 3:5), and that is a sin in and of itself (it's called idolatry - making God something He is not).
- 5) **God is Savior** - Galatians 4:4-5 says, "⁴But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." To redeem is to buy back. God wants His created people with Him. So much so, that He would send His Son to die for them. Yes, God is Righteous and cannot accept sin, but God is Savior and has provided a way.

I believe one of the main issues people have with #5 is that they don't understand 1-4. They don't want to accept a Savior because they really don't see a difference between them and God. And if there is no difference, then there is no need of Him. We need to keep in mind, that before He was our Savior, He was our Creator. The man on the cross was so much more than a man.

Pastor Andy