

## Honoring Christ

No. 24

### Introduction.

I. I would like to invite your attention to a reading from the fifth chapter of the gospel of John. (Jn. 5:19-23).

**19. Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father doing: for what things soever he doeth, these the Son also doeth in like manner.**

**20. For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and greater works than these will he show him, that ye may marvel.**

**21. For as the Father raiseth the dead and giveth them life, even so the Son also giveth life to whom he will.**

**22. For neither doth the Father judge any man, but he hath given all judgment unto the Son;**

**23. that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father that sent him. ASV**

II. From this reading I call your attention to what Jesus said in verse 23. Jesus said **“that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father that sent him.”** In this verse Jesus stated all men must honor the Son as they honor the Father.

III. For our lesson let's discuss some ways we are to honor Christ as indicated in the holy scriptures.

I. **Making The Good Confession** - We are to honor Christ by making the good confession.

A. We must confess before men that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (Matt. 16:16). If we fail or refuse to honor Christ in this way we will be condemned. (Matt. 10:32, 33).

B. Not only must we confess Christ, but we must also stand up for His word. (Mk. 8:38).

1. One time **a boy in Sunday school** unmercifully denounced Peter as a coward for denying his Lord and said that he knew he would have been faithful. Several weeks later his teacher noticed he was depressed and in a private interview asked the reason. The boy told how he has listened to some boys talk against the Bible in a mean and irreverent way and he had not said a word in reply. He felt by his silence he had denied his Lord just as Peter did.

2. I wonder how many others need to make this confession? I wonder how many others have denied Christ by not standing up for His words?

II. **In Baptism** - We are to honor Christ in baptism. (Rom. 6:4).

A. Paul knew that baptism was “for the remission of sins.” (Acts 22:16).

B. Paul tells us that baptism is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

C. Just as Christ died on the cross, we are to die to sin. Just as Christ was buried in the tomb, we are to be buried in the waters of baptism. Just as Christ was raised to live a new life, we are to be raised from the waters of baptism to walk in the newness of life. (Col. 2:12; 3:1, 2).

III. **Partaking of The Lord's Supper** - We are to honor Christ by partaking of the Lord's supper.

- A. The Lord's supper is a memorial of the death of Christ on the cross.
  - 1. Jesus said. (Matt. 26:26-28).
  - 2. In this simple manner Jesus instituted the Lord's supper to be eaten in His church or kingdom.
- B. After the church was formed on the day of Pentecost, the Jerusalem church honored Christ by continuing steadfastly in the Lord's supper. (Acts 2:42).
- C. Later, in the book of Acts, we find that the church at Troas was assembling in honor of Christ. (Acts 20:7).
- D. When Paul wrote the church at Corinth, he rebuked those brethren because they had not come together to honor Christ. They had come together simply to eat and drink and satisfy their own desires.
  - 1. Listen to the strong rebuke Paul gave to them.

**1CO 11:20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper,**

**1CO 11:21 for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk.**

**1CO 11:22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.**

**1CO 11:27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.**

**1CO 11:28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.**

**1CO 11:29 For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.**

**1CO 11:30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.**

- 2. This warning Paul gave to the Corinthian Christians should cause us to do some serious thinking. If we fail to honor Christ when we partake of the supper, we are eating and drinking condemnation to ourselves. What should be a great blessing will be a great curse.

**IV. Wearing The Name Christian** - We are to honor Christ by wearing the name Christian and refusing to wear any other name.

A. Isaiah said. (Isa. 62:2). Isaiah foretold that God's people would receive a new name. This new name was given God's people at Antioch. (Acts 11:26).

- 1. The new name given God's people was the name "Christian." When a child of God wears this name he brings honor to Christ. When he wears some human name, he brings glory to a human or doctrine, not to Christ.
- 2. Suppose that your name is Smith and your wife insisted on wearing the name Jones. You would be hurt or offended, would you not?
- 3. In the New Testament our relationship to Christ is represented as that of a bride to her husband. (2 Cor.11:2). Should, not, then, we (the bride of Christ) wear His name and not that of another.

B. This fact has been recognized by many religious leaders of the past.

- 1. **Charles Spurgeon**, who is said by many to be the most talented Baptist preacher who has ever lived, said: "I say of the Baptist name, let it perish, but let Christ's name last forever. I look forward with pleasure, to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope

the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever." *Spurgeon Memorial Library*, Vol. 1, p. 168.

2. **Martin Luther**, a man in whose name many people glory, said:

"I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone. St. Paul would not let any call themselves after Paul, nor Peter, but of Christ. Now then, does it befit me a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of God? Cease, my friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions: away with all; and let us call ourselves Christians, after him from whom our doctrine comes." **The Life Of Luther**, by Stork., p. 289.

V. **Seeking To Imitate Him** - We are to honor Christ by seeking to imitate Him. (1 Pet. 2:21).

A. We must imitate Christ by **living the kind of life He did**.

1. Years ago a **preacher preached one Sunday on the subject**, "If I Were A Jew." A rabbi in the city heard about it and preached a sermon on the topic, "If I Were A Christian." What did he say? He pointedly said this, "If I were a Christian, I would live more like Jesus than most Christians do."
2. Yes, we need to live more like Jesus. We should imitate Him that to others may see Christ living in us and be drawn to Him.

B. We must imitate Christ by **servicing others**.

1. Jesus did not come to the earth to be served, but to serve.
2. He also taught that our mission on earth is to serve. (Matt. 20:27, 28).
3. This prayer should be on our hearts and lips.

Lord, make me a channel of Thy peace,  
That where there is hatred—  
I may bring love,  
That where there is wrong—  
I may bring the spirit of forgiveness,  
That where there is discord—  
I may bring harmony,  
That where there is error—  
I may bring truth,

That where there is doubt—  
I may bring faith,  
That where there is despair—  
I may bring hope,  
That where there are shadows—  
I may bring Thy light,

That where there is sadness—  
I may bring joy.

Lord, grant that I may seek rather  
To comfort--than to be comforted;  
To understand--than to be understood;  
To love--than to be loved;

For

It is by giving--that one receives;  
It is by self-forgetting--that one finds;  
It is by forgiving--that one is forgiven;  
It is by dying--that one awakens to eternal life.

C. We must imitate Christ by having the **courage to stand up for our convictions**.

1. **Once a soldier was ordered by his sergeant to report to the canteen** and serve as a bartender. When the soldier refused to do so, the sergeant threatened to report him to the officer of the day. The soldier said, "All right, go ahead, I did not enlist to be a bartender, but a soldier." Later he was called before the major who

asked, “Are you the young man who disobeyed orders this morning?” He said, “Yes, I am.” “Why did you do it?” The soldier said, “I simply do not believe it is right to do what I was asked to do. I enlisted to be a soldier and not a bartender.” The major arose quickly from his chair and said, “You are the kind of man we want. I am glad to see a fellow who has the courage of his convictions. You are not obligated to report to the canteen.”

2. We need more Christians like this today. We need Christians who will stand up for their convictions.

D. We must imitate Christ by **forgiving others**. (Lk. 23:34; Matt. 18:21, 22; 6:14, 15).

E. We must imitate Christ by **being kind**.

1. **One cold winter night in New York City a little man** in a faded raincoat and a tattered hat was walking around in Grand Central Station. He was really wealthy, but he came to the station two or three times a week to see if he could find someone who needed his help. He dressed this way so that he could get close to them. That night a soldier was sitting on a bench, dejected and unhappy. The man went up and said to him, “What is your trouble?” And the soldier replied, “What is that to you?” The man said, “Well, I just thought I might help you.” The soldier answered, “Nobody can help me.” The little man replied, “Well, tell me your trouble, anyway.” The soldier said, “I have a ten day pass and I am on my way home. My mother and father and my little brother and sister are expecting me. Somebody stole my ticket and my wallet. I don’t even have enough money to get back to camp, and to tell you the truth, I am homesick.” The little man took him over to the window and bought a round-trip ticket for him. He pressed some money into his hand and gave him his business card. Two weeks later the little man received a letter from the soldier, returning the money. In the letter the soldier said, “I had the best time I ever had. From now on I will always think of Jesus as a little man with a faded raincoat and a tattered hat.

2. The kindness of this little man made the soldier think of Jesus. We should be full of kindness that others will identify us with the Prince of kindness, Christ Jesus. (Eph. 4:32).

3. Someone has written:

Bouquets or Wreaths?

God make me kind!

So many hearts are breaking  
And so many more are aching  
To hear the tender word.

God make me kind!  
For I myself am learning,  
My own sad heart is yearning  
For some sweet word to heal its hurt,  
O Lord, do make me kind!

God make me kind!  
So many hearts are needing  
The balm to stop the bleeding  
That my kind words can bring.

God make me kind!  
For I am also seeking  
The cure in someone’s keeping  
They should impart to my sick heart,  
O Lord, do make me kind!

God make me kind!  
So many hearts are lonely  
Are asking for this only—  
The kind and tender word.

God made me kind!  
To all who mutely ask it  
Before they fill the casket,  
Or bouquets may be wreaths some day.  
O Lord, do make me kind!

--Duncan McNeill, Chicago, Ill.

VI. **Becoming A Christian In Exactly The Way He Has Appointed** - We honor Christ by becoming a Christian in exactly the way He has appointed.

A. The divine plan of Christ consists of these simple but vital actions. (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Rom. 10:10; Mk. 16:16).

- B. It is only when a person has followed each step of this divine plan that he becomes a Christian and becomes an heir of salvation.
- C. It is only when a person has followed each step of this divine plan that he has honored Jesus. How can one honor Jesus and not believe in Him? How can one honor the Sinless One and refuse to turn from his sins? How can one honor Jesus and refuse to confess Him before men? How can one honor Jesus and refuse to obey Jesus' command to be baptized and re-enact His death, burial, and resurrection through baptism?

**Conclusion.**

- I. **Many years ago the great ship Titanic was built in Belfast, Ireland.** It has heralded as an “unsinkable ship.” But on the maiden voyage, the Titanic struck an iceberg and went to the bottom, carrying hundreds of people down to their deaths. The world was stunned and the city of Belfast was filled with grief. The next Sunday a large crowd of people gathered in a church building and a preacher spoke to the weeping, broken hearted audience on the subject, “The Unsinkable Ship.” He did not talk about the Titanic, but he talked about Jesus and ship of salvation.
- II. Beloved, I urge you to get on that unsinkable ship that has Jesus as its Captain. If you will come to Christ now, He will save you and bring you through the storms of life and bring you safely to the eternal home at the end of the way. Come to Christ now and live a life to His glory and honor. Come as we sing.

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