

Teaching for 2-13-08

Jesus Goes Missing

In a 2003 *U.S. News and World Report*, the editors of this secular magazine tried to describe the current evangelical movement. They came up with some key descriptive words, which included:

- o Serious about religion
- o Spiritually accessible to all
- o Experiential and emotionally engaging
- o Market-savvy in its expansionism.

It was a positive report that positioned evangelicals as bold in faith and having an impact on America. But as David Bryant notes, there was an alarming and disturbing omission. Nowhere in the 5-page article was there any mention of Jesus Christ as a “predominant distinctive of the evangelical faith” (*Christ is ALL*, by David Bryant, pg. 8).

Jesus was missing. The very foundation of the Christian faith was somehow overlooked. Was this the fault of the editors as they interviewed evangelical leaders and compiled their findings? Or does this more accurately describe the current crisis in the Church today?

We believe the Church is in desperate need of an awakening to the supremacy of Jesus Christ. That’s why we’ve invited David Bryant to come and declare those truths in our city with the Christ Summit on February 22-23. Friends, please hear this: ***Now is the time to turn all of our attention, desire, and heart love back to the Lord Jesus Christ!***

Crisis of Christology

David Bryant refers to this as a “crisis of Christology” in the Church today. Although it seems hard to believe that this is truly an issue, the evidence is overwhelming that Jesus has been replaced by other affections.

If you’re not so sure you agree with this assessment, take this quick test by answering a few questions:

- Throughout the course of your day yesterday, did you specifically mention the name of Jesus to someone else in a way that reflected your deep love for Him?
- In your workplace, are you viewed as a “nice person with good morals,” or are you known as someone who passionately loves Jesus and reflects Him to others in a Christ-like way?
- What was the primary topic of conversation in the last gathering you enjoyed with other believers from your church? Was it the incredible finish to the Super Bowl, or was it an amazing story about Jesus working in your life?
- How much time do you spend watching television or other forms of entertainment as opposed to time in the presence of Jesus Christ?
- When was the last time you, as a family, specifically chose Jesus over another activity or form of entertainment? (Going to church on Sunday morning doesn’t count for this test!)

These questions are not meant to be an indictment causing anyone to feel judgment and shame. Rather, they are meant to cause reflection about the true place of honor that Jesus has in our lives. Without a doubt, all of us need a “course correction” in our lives when it comes to the preeminence and supremacy of Jesus.

Begin Now to Seek Him Anew

The place to begin is an honest admission of our desperate need. Then we need to humbly abandon ourselves to the vastness and fullness of Jesus Christ. We must invite Him not only to *fill us*, but to *overwhelm us* with His presence and power and glory. Only then can we begin to get a glimpse of all that Christ is and desires to be in our lives.

We believe 2008 is going to be the year when Jesus re-establishes Himself as the true Savior, Lord, and King of His Church. When Jesus presents Himself in His manifest presence, there will be no doubt that He reigns and rules over all!

We implore you to rearrange your schedule for next weekend and join us for the *Christ Summit* with David Bryant. ([Click here for more information.](#)) There is no better time than now to drop everything and seek Him with all your heart!

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before God made anything at all and is supreme over all creation. Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. Everything has been created through him and for him. He existed before everything else began, and he holds all creation together. (Colossians 1:15-17, NLT)