

Newsletter Teaching for 8-22-07

Getting Back to Jesus

“You need to tell the truth.”

As a PTM staff, we have been praying and seeking the Lord for several weeks regarding the theme and content of the *2008 Transformation Prayer Guide*. Every year we (Steve Loopstra and Carol Madison) take a week away from all of the distractions and interruptions to write the entire 52 weeks of the prayer guide. As you read this e-mail, we are currently writing the new guide (Aug. 20-24)—and we would value your prayers.

During the weeks beforehand of preparing our hearts to write, we heard this message very clearly: “You need to tell the truth.” What is that truth? ***It is the reality and truth of the person and work of Jesus Christ!*** The Lord has been directing us to write the entire guide on Jesus, and as you can imagine, it feels like a daunting and overwhelming assignment. Without the anointing and direction of the Holy Spirit, we know we are completely inadequate in our own feeble attempts.

But we are convinced that this is a crucial issue in the Church today. We may acknowledge Jesus and have some theological understanding of Him, but do we really live in the truth of Jesus Christ as our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King? This is the conviction that is burning in our hearts, and we believe Jesus is preparing His Church to walk in new levels of understanding and belief.

How Does One Describe Jesus?

And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen (John 21:25, NKJV).

As John came to the end of writing his gospel about the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus, his final words acknowledge the enormous task in describing Jesus. John knew Jesus intimately, walked with Him through the most dramatic moments of history, and was taught by the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He could only conclude his writing by declaring that there was still so much to know about Jesus that it could not be captured adequately. In fact, if everything about Jesus and what He did was written down in its entirety, the “world” (in the Greek *Kosmos*) could not contain all the books it would take.

We are convinced that the Church needs a fresh look at Jesus Christ. In all of our busyness, strategic planning, and ministry goals, it is easy to lose focus on the One who must be the center of all things: the Lord Jesus Christ. Even our ministries that have been founded on bringing people to Jesus can lose sight of Him in all the activities of good things. We know it’s true because we have experienced it ourselves. As we desire to call people to rediscover the primacy of prayer, it has to really be about the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please Pray With Us

If the prayer guide has been a blessing to you in the past, would you pray for us this week? Pray that we would be sensitive to the voice and leading of the Holy Spirit. Please pray that both the content and the prayer points will be used of the Lord to cause His people to fall more in love with Him. Pray that the truth of the majesty and glory of Jesus will be revealed to all of us even more in the coming year. He is our wonderful and sufficient Savior, our gracious Healer, and our “coming soon” King!