

Christ is the Answer in the Church

Intro: Most churches claim to belong to Christ - Mt 16:18; Eph 1:22,23 - as such they should see Him as their answer, yet many often look to other sources for answers - Lk 6:46; Jn 12:48

I) Jesus is the answer in practice of worship

A) How do we know how to worship God? - 1 Cor 2:9-13 - we cannot determine that ourselves, but must listen to God's will

B) Yet, so many determine doctrines in conventions, councils, even closed-door meetings

C) Our goal is to worship just like the first-century disciples - 1 Th 2:13,14

II) Jesus is the answer in measure of faithfulness

A) We are to watch for one another and build up the weak in faith - Gal 6:1,2; Rom 15:1,2

B) How can we determine who is weak? Some use measures such as consistency in attendance, participation in leading public worship, leading in making decisions

C) How does God define faith - Heb 11:1 - who has the strongest confidence in Jesus, His life, His lordship, and His word? example of Winona Brown, not the most knowledgeable, but no one had a stronger trust in God than she

III) Jesus is the answer in conflict

A) We should all strive to avoid conflict, yet, it is inevitable to occur, both without and within the body

B) How do we handle such conflict? Some respond with anger, others with sarcasm, some seek victory at any cost - Jn 11:47-53

C) Jesus never became angry at personal affront - Mk 3:5; Jas 1:19,20 - did not verbal abuse when directed at Him - 1 Pet 2:23 - Jesus allowed others to seek their apparent victories - Mk 14:55-61; 15:2-5; 1 Cor 6:7

Concl: Our preaching should always be Jesus-centered, because He is the answer to all our questions