

## CHRIST ALONE

Today I want to talk to you about what it means to grow in Christ...

**Galatians 4:19** - My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until **Christ is formed in you...** (NKJV)

Speaking to Christians who are thinking wrong... trying to mix the law and grace...

- Not replacing grace ... but adding to it
- **The struggle was with their culture...** all they had ever known about God was... we have to work very hard to be accepted by him and he was very hard to please

**For thousands of years the law said you can't really please Him... but work harder...little more**

- **Then Paul comes alone with the Gospel of grace by faith in Christ... ( a man they have never heard of)...Trust in Him alone**

Our culture has taught us much the same

### Jesus Plus

- Yes the blood of Jesus **plus** good behavior and you're in
- Yes the blood of Jesus **plus** dressing correctly and you're in
- Yes the blood of Jesus **plus** eating and drinking only what we approve of and you're in
- **Yes to Jesus... plus something**

You are born again... but now the **formation of Christ...** How we view our life in Him. The gestation of your thoughts and philosophies will they stay true to the simplicity of the message CHRIST ALONE

Paul's message is

- **3.3-Why would you began in the Spirit try to finish in the flesh?**
- **3.1- Who has bewitched you that you would not obey the truth?**
- **5.1- Do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage**

**TCC**... the yoke of bondage is not sin in the life of the Christian... no the yoke of bondage is what we add to the gospel for our salvation.

Jesus plus my good works get us in... Understand there is a fine line here

### **Performance based Christianity**

- Never enough
- Leads to condemnation and self-righteousness
- Hypocrisy... their sin is much greater than mine

**The major theme of the book is** ... do not complicate this Christian life with the law.

**Galatians 4:19** -My little children, for whom I am again in **[the pains of] labor** until Christ is **[completely and permanently]** formed within you... (AMP)

If we are to become like Jesus we must be...

## **Conformed**

**There is a mold... it's His image.**

- **Image of Christ...** His way of **being**... His way of **doing**... **His thoughts**... intentions... mission
- **Spirit formed life**

### **Tendency**

Bankruptcy... initially we come to Christ and declare Ch 7 ... I'm destitute there's no coming back all I want is you ... I cast all there is in my life on you

Then as time goes by and things begin to get better... we say You know Lord what I meant was Ch 11.. yes I need you but I will now reorganize and help you out... Jesus plus...

**Romans 13:14** – But put you on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh ... (KJV)

### **Q. Who's forming?**

Some have asked me what is happening to the Church during this time of pandemic

- Many have ultra-focused on the plot of the enemy... **Satan** is trying to destroy the Church in the church
- All true

### **Q. Have you asked yourself... what is God doing?**

Two things are happening simultaneously

**John 10.10...** the thief does come to kill steal and destroy... But with equal and greater intensity God is simultaneously and continually bringing life and that more abundantly.

**Isaiah 59:19** - When the enemy comes in like a flood the Spirit of the lord raises a standard against him. (NKJV)

### **Q. What is the standard? Spirit formed image of Christ on the inside**

**Romans 8:28** – We know that in all things **God works for the good of those who love him**, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined **to be conformed** to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. (NIV)

**God is at work in our lives at all times...** even now...

- Are we just hanging on until we get back to normal... or are we responding to His work
  - God plus the election will fix everything

Point: In all things, in covid, in a wildfire, in social unrest, in the midst of the political...  
**HE'S FORMING HIS IMAGE**

### **Q. What is God up to!!**

In this season of worldwide confusion... He's conforming us into His image

## Reformed

Many have been looking for a revival... what we need is ...reformation

- Reformation is a re-alignment with who He is

### Reformation-

Martin Luther 1517... **95 thesis**. His message to the church, “the just will live by faith...” because the church was stuck in the dogma... of works

- Luther says it’s never been about working for your salvation... it’s about grace and faith... all about Jesus... His sacrifice...
- The church began a re-form-ation because it has got off course... God made a change in the direction in the church.

**Jesus comes on the scene** – the people of God were entrenched in the law... lost relationship with God

**John 1:17** – For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

**Q. What is God saying to His Church today?** It’s time to humble ourselves and pray and seek and turn back to the simplicity of faith in Jesus alone. It’s a reformation of His people.

**Q. TCC what is He doing in this church?**

What is He forming in your life... through the pandemic... through the fire... through the virtual schools... why can’t the church get back together?

- Perhaps he is re-forming something in us ...

*When the music fades and all is stripped away, and I simply come  
Longing just to bring something that’s of worth that will bless your heart*

*I’ll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what You have required  
You search much deeper within, through the way things appear  
You’re looking into my heart.*

*I’m coming back to the heart of worship and it’s all about You, it’s all about You Jesus!*

I'm coming back to the heart of worship... **that's reformation!**

Will it ever look the way it used to... I certainly hope not... How about a new and better version depicting His truth... His image in the earth

- Based on Christ Alone... **not of works least any one should boast!!**

## Transformed

Paul says... I LABOR UNTIL Christ be formed in you

**There is a process...** Transformation is from the inside out... it is a heart first actions will follow

- Metamorphosis

Process of the worm in the cocoon who after time emerges a butterfly

- Hanging on struggling at the end... flapping and twisting... drying its wings strengthening its wings to a place where it can fly
- If it is helped by artificial means it will never fly and accomplish its purpose... the formation of the image is in the struggle
- The amount of effort to get free is the strength that is needed to stay free

**Rom 12-** by **renewing the mind**

**Transformation-** Change from the inside out... a heart change that leads to life change

- applied word of God... energized by the Holy Spirit... worked into our lives that manifests in our daily lives... this is ongoing and forever.

**Ezekiel 36:26-27** – I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes and to carefully observe My ordinances... (NASB)

Heart first then He causes us to walk in His ways... He is the one who labors within us until Christ be formed in us