



"How the Church Promoted the Preeminence of Christ–Pt. 3"

In Acts 3:1-4:31, there are 3 commitments to the preeminence of Christ that ensure Christ is not replaced in our approach to the Christian life:

I. Exalting Christ's Supreme Power–3:1-12

II. Recognizing Christ's Promised Redemption–3:13-26

The salvation which Christ purchased for His people includes both justification and sanctification. The Lord Jesus saves not only from the guilt and penalty of sin, but from the power and pollution of it. Where there is a genuine longing to be freed from the love of sin, there is a true desire for His salvation; but where there is no practical deliverance from the service of sin, then we are strangers to His saving grace. (1)

He who supposes that Jesus Christ only lived and died and rose again in order to provide justification and forgiveness of sins for His people, has yet much to learn. Whether he knows it or not, he is dishonouring our blessed Lord, and making Him only a half Saviour. The Lord Jesus has undertaken everything that His people's souls require; not only to deliver them from the guilt of their sins by His atoning death, but from the dominion of their sins, by placing in their hearts the Holy Spirit; not only to justify them, but also to sanctify them. He is, thus, not only their "righteousness," but their "sanctification." (1 Cor. 1:30.) (2)

God is as concerned with holiness as He is with forgiveness; the two cannot be divided. No man can survive an encounter with God while still bearing the stain of sin, and no man can enjoy unhindered daily communion with God in this life apart from a vibrant pursuit of practical holiness. This is why every aspect of our glorious salvation is aimed at holiness in Christ. (3)

Jn 3:36, 12:47-48; Lk 12:48b; Js 1:22-25; Gen 22:16-18; Gal 3:16-18, 26-29;
Rom 1:16; Acts 13:46-47; Eph 1:4; 1 Pet 2:24; Rom 6:1-7, 15-19; Titus 2:11-14

1 Arthur Walkington Pink, *The Doctrine of Sanctification* (Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software, 2005), 26.

2 J. C. Ryle, *Holiness: Its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties and Roots* (London: William Hunt and Company, 1889), 24.

3 Jerry Wragg & Paul Shirley, *Free to be Holy* (GIBC, 2019), 16.