

We Preach Christ

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Preacher: Pastor Wolski

[0 : 00] Okay, everybody there? 2 Corinthians 4! I'll just be transparent.

I'm going to kind of pull the verse out of its context a little bit. And I'm telling you that because I don't want you to sit there and think, is that really what it says or what it means? But the verse I'm going to get to is verse number 5.

And it has to do with preaching Jesus Christ. And understand that Paul is speaking of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in this passage. And it even goes back into the previous chapter.

You see in chapter 3 and verse 6, where God hath made us able ministers of the New Testament. And chapter 4, verse 1, therefore seeing we have this ministry, speaking of the New Testament, that God's put that on us to preach and to teach.

In verse 2, we've renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully. And we're manifesting the truth. And so then what... So Paul is proclaiming the gospel and he's teaching the truth and he's putting it out there.

[1 : 11] And he says in verse 3, if it's hid from anybody at all, it's not because we're not proclaiming it. It's because the God of this world, the devil himself, is blinding minds of men and women, keeping them lost and in darkness and not allowing the light of the glorious gospel of Christ to shine under them, like he says in verse 4.

And then he reiterates this thought in verse 5, For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

And this is just one place of many that I could point to where Paul references preaching the Lord Jesus, or he says, God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He talks about him crucified. He references that it's such a burden and a calling for him to preach Jesus to everyone, everywhere. And he did it. And he has stripes on his back because he followed through with his calling and ministry.

And he didn't quit. He just went all the way to the end preaching Jesus Christ. Why? Because there was a real message and a need for that message and a real calling on his life.

[2 : 24] But the world's on its way to hell, and Paul was given this ministry of getting that truth out to the world. And God enabled him and empowered him to do it, and he did a great job of it.

And he put his life on the line. He went out there and did it. Now, because we have Jesus Christ, we've received that message of the gospel of Christ, because we know it to be true, because our lives have been changed by the Lord Jesus Christ, then I'd say that we too preach Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves ministers, or servants, rather, for Jesus' sake.

Our lives, we're just servants of God because he saved us. And I trust you're on the same page with me here, that we have an understanding that this life is but a vapor. God has opened our eyes to truth.

This world is not our home. This world's going to hell faster than ever been before. And it's the will of God to deliver us from this present evil world. And having that understanding and having that confidence that this is a reality to us, this is why we come out of our homes and our societies and our cultures, we come together to have something different in the middle of the week on a Wednesday night when most everybody's just, I just stood out there and watched the cars just, just going and going and going.

And I looked out across the valley, I could see lights all over the place and millions of people just doing what they do. But there's something different God put in us to come together and to want to fellowship in what we have in Jesus Christ.

[3 : 56] And so tonight, there's a lot of topics in the Bible, a lot of messages that need to be preached, and a lot of things to address and teach and to proclaim.

But if there's one message that never gets old, or if there's one topic that you just can't wear it out, one theme that cannot be overstated, it cannot be elevated too high, that would be talking about and glorying in and lifting up and preaching the Lord Jesus Christ to every believer that has found the abundance of grace and mercy and forgiveness and a new life and pardon and salvation. To all of us, we can echo what the Scripture says, Christ is all. He is all in all. There's no question. The song says, The things of this world grow strangely dim when we consider the Lord Jesus Christ, when we consider, when we preach Christ Jesus.

Nothing in this life and in this world can hold a candle to what we have in the Lord Jesus Christ, nor to what we're going to have through the Lord Jesus Christ. When a Christian proclaims Christ to the world, it's just a foreign, weird infatuation that you have with some religion.

They don't understand it. They can't relate to it. You're a nut. You're a Jesus freak. Or whatever words they may use today, probably some expletives there. But when a Christian talks to another Christian about the Lord Jesus Christ, we can relate.

[5 : 39] There's something inside us that perks up or that comes alive, that understands the language and understands the experience. We can rejoice together in the goodness and in that very experience of knowing Jesus Christ.

It's a blessing to preach Jesus Christ, to hear His name lifted up. And it's an encouragement. And we can relate to that. And so whether it's to the saved or to the lost, we preach Jesus Christ. And I hope tonight, just to give you three little things here that can edify you and a few reasons why it's good for us to preach the Lord Jesus Christ. So the first one, kind of right in this passage, the idea is because Christ Jesus saves sinners.

That's why we preach Jesus Christ. If there was some other way to save a sinner, we'd consider that one. We'd talk about that. If we could direct people to pray to Mary and she could go to God and be a mediatrix for sins, then we would talk about that one.

But since that's not ever happened, we're not going to talk about that one. But there is one person that can save sinners. So we've come to know that.

[6 : 51] We've come to experience that. It's the greatest need that every man and every woman and every child has is to get reconciled to God. And so we preach Jesus Christ because He and He alone can save sinners.

He can settle the score. He's the only one that can bring a guilty sinner into a relationship with God the Father. Jesus Christ said, No man, and I'll add women, children, no man cometh unto the Father but by me.

Peter said that the Lord Jesus Christ suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. He's the only one that can take us to heaven. If Jesus Christ didn't care for your soul, if God's wrath were to wax hot against your personal sins that you've committed, the ones that you've committed against Him, the ones that you know were wrong and you did anyway, if God's wrath would wax hot, you'd already be tormented in the flames of hell.

You'd be drowning in those flames and you'd have no escape. You'd have no reprieve. You'd have no rest and there'd be no end. You'd be screaming and you'd be screaming for mercy.

You'd be hating and cursing God and wishing you were never ever conceived if Jesus Christ didn't care for your soul. But no, He laid down His life. The Bible says, He bore our sins in His body on the tree.

[8 : 16] He made His righteous soul, innocent righteous soul, an offering to God is what He did for our sins so that you and I could escape the damnation of hell.

Yeah, we preach Christ Jesus the Lord because Jesus saves sinners. I'm just not going to ask you, but I'm assuming, just based on you coming here tonight, that you know what I'm talking about.

That inside of you, there's that little energy, that little zing that's saying, yep, yep, yep, He saves me. He saves sinners.

He saves, it's only Jesus. And inside of you is something that's just kind of agreeing with that, whether you vocalize it or not. You get a hold of this songbook here.

We've got one and there's so many of these. This is not even close to the collection of songs or hymns that have been written and penned about the Lord Jesus Christ. But you get a look into there and start flipping through those pages.

[9 : 21] You listen to the testimonies of the literally millions that have experienced what it is for Jesus Christ to save their soul. The power of the Son of God to save a sinner.

So many have found that His name is worthy to proclaim and to preach and to sing about and to adore and to worship because Christ Jesus saves sinners.
The one song says, Jesus is the sweetest name I know and He is just the same as His lovely name. And that's the reason why I love Him so.
Jesus is the sweetest name. We sang it on Sunday. Oh, how I love Jesus. Oh, how I love Jesus. Because He first loved me and He gave His life for my sins.
Those songbooks, those testimonies, the Christians out there, man, when you find something that good, it's hard to keep your mouth shut about it. You get a deal at the store and you want everybody to know about it.
[10:23] You meet somebody or see somebody famous, you want everybody to know about it. You've met and had a personal relationship with the Almighty God, the King of glory. Yeah, we preach Christ Jesus, the Lord, because He is the Lord, because He saves sinners.

Flip over in your Bible to Acts chapter 10. And I just want to give you a little example of a man who was a devout man, an upright man. He feared God, but he did not know the Lord Jesus Christ. But when God revealed to him that He's going to send somebody to give a message, this guy got so excited, he rounded up all of his friends and his family. Look at Acts chapter 10. This is Cornelius. In verse 24, On the morrow, after they entered into Caesarea, and Cornelius waited for them and had called together his kinsmen and his near friends.
Why? Because he's about to hear a message of Jesus Christ. And Cornelius, he was in the fog, but he's about to get the light that Jesus Christ, that Christ Jesus the Lord, saves sinners.
[11:32] Look at verses 42 and 3. This is what Peter preaches to him. He says, And he commanded us to preach unto the people and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the judge of quick and dead.

To him give all the prophets witness that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. Peter got to preach a message to not just to Cornelius, but to his family and to his friends and all that were gathered into that house.
And you better believe they received it. And the rest of the chapter, the Lord shows up in some mighty ways because Christ Jesus saves sinners. That's why we preach him.
There's another reason we preach him. Flip over to Matthew chapter 11. Matthew 11. Matthew 11. And we're just going to come to the end of this chapter.
And don't get quiet on me tonight. I know it's just a few of you here, but that's all the more reason to just loosen up and bear witness to the truth because we're reading some scripture. Let's read Matthew 11 verse 28.

[12:40] Here's the words of Christ. And he says, Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. Now I know we have an application of salvation out of this passage of coming to the Lord Jesus Christ.
We even studied that on Sunday afternoon in the doctrines class of how simple salvation is. But there's another application to this thought is that Jesus is asking you to come and bring some things to Him and lay it on Him and He'll bear it with you.
Would you notice that He says, Take my yoke upon you. And then He says, My yoke's easy and my burden light. It's implying that He'll go through your problems with you.
You just bring them to Him. If you've got a heavy load on you in this life, bring it to Jesus Christ. He'll help you with it. It's not saying, I'll just poof, make it all go away.
[13:48] But He said, I'll help you with this. And so secondly, a good reason why we preach Christ Jesus the Lord is because not only does Jesus save sinners, but Jesus also solves problems.

Because there are certain times in this life that these kind of verses, they mean a little bit more than other times in life. And you know what I'm talking about. Sometimes you just hit some wall or have something hit you and lay you out in the Scripture.
Certain verses just mean something more in that moment. And they strengthen you and lift you up. And when Christ talks about His yoke here, He's telling you if you've got a heavy burden that's weighing down your heart and a problem, then you can bring it to Him and He will shoulder the majority of that burden and carry you through with it.

Take my yoke upon you. That's a yoke where the two of you are together going side by side as He helps you navigate the problem. In this book you read, especially in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and John, you can read some historical accounts of some real people with some real problems and they had nowhere to turn and then the Lord Jesus Christ comes walking into their town one day and they start hearing rumors about this Jesus of Nazareth and the rumors start to spread to the next town and when He gets there they've already got Him lined up because Jesus is here and we've heard what He can do to people with problems.

And they line up and He one by one heals them and makes them whole and fixes their issues. Flip back to chapter 9 and just give you a little sample of the many that are listed in this book.

[15 : 34] Real people that are flesh and blood just like you and I that found out that Jesus Christ solves problems. Look at verse 18 through 26 and there's two of them in this.

While He spake these things unto them, behold there came a certain ruler and worshipped Him saying, My daughter is even now dead. She's dead. She's deceased.

Gone. What a tragedy for this man. My daughter is even now dead. But come and lay thine hand upon her and she shall live. Would you know that that man, unless this was just a freak accident, a momentary, or a thing that in a moment of time or just immediate, unless, it's very possible that this thing drug out.

She was sick and they took her to physicians and it wasn't getting better and finally, they watched her die. I don't want to presume anything here, but what I know is that the parents lost their child. No parent should ever have to deal with that. And yet it happens. It's a problem in life. And he believed that Christ could fix this. So in verse 19, Jesus arose and followed Him and so did His disciples.

[16 : 46] And behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood, twelve years, came behind Him and touched the hem of His garment. For she said within herself, If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole.

But Jesus turned him about and when He saw her, He said, Daughter, be of good comfort. Thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

And when Jesus came into the ruler's house and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, He said unto them, give place. For the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.

But when the people were put forth, He went in and took her by the hand and the maid arose and the fame hereof went abroad into all that land. These were real people.

And nobody on the face of the earth could make a difference about keeping that man's daughter alive or fixing this woman's issue of twelve years. and in another account it describes she spent all she had on trying to get this taken care of, went to all the physicians in town and who knows where.

[17 : 53] Nobody could help her. But the Lord Jesus Christ never met a problem He couldn't fix. He's the God of glory. He's the healer. He's the creator of your very body.

Something goes wrong with it, oh, I know what's wrong with it. I can fix that. If He could take dirt and breathe into it and make a man a living soul, He could look on any problem that a physical, just, I got that.

Is anything too hard for the Lord? So we preach Christ Jesus the Lord because He can solve problems. He never met a problem He couldn't solve.

Family problems, breaking up, falling apart, Jesus Christ can fix that. Problems with, like, some major royal messes that people can get themselves into.

And the Lord Jesus Christ, He just has a way. There's a woman in John chapter 8 that was taken in adultery in the very act. She had nothing that she could defend herself with.

[19 : 00] She was caught. She deserved what the law said, stoning. And so you could imagine the fear, not just the embarrassment. That's nothing. She was going to die that day.

And they brought her in front of Jesus where He's teaching at the temple and threw her down and like, this is what happened. What do you think? And that woman had death in front of her.

She meets Jesus Christ and He says to the woman, neither do I condemn thee. Go and sit. She got a second chance at life after she was as guilty as guilty could be with no forgiveness under the law and no pardon.

And she gets to walk away free as if she didn't even do it to go live her life and try to fix things up and make things better.

How, why, and where could this ever happen? The Lord Jesus Christ is the only one that could step in there and fix that. Otherwise, that lady's dead meat.

[20 : 02] Jesus Christ gives sight to the blind. He fixes the mind of the most wild, out of control, devil-possessed man and leaves him seated, clothed, and in his right mind.

And all the people who could not tame him, could not, could not bind him with chains, have to say, what in the world is going on?

What we're witnessing, we can't even comprehend, we can't relate this. Jesus Christ is the difference maker. He's the problem solver.

He can sober up a drunkard. He can stabilize an addict. Back in chapter 8, you're in Matthew, look at 8, look at verse 26, just halfway through the verse, 8, 26, it says, Then he arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

The men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him? I mean, healing a blind man is pretty phenomenal, but then, just speaking to the elements, the natural world and all of its chaos, and it obeys him.

[21 : 23] And if he can calm the troubled sea, he can calm your angry spirit. If he can command peace into the natural world, he can put peace into your heart and into your fearful and troubled mind.

So we preach Christ Jesus the Lord, because he alone can solve the problems. We don't preach President Trump. We don't preach about any man with power as if he can do something for us. We don't preach Elon Musk or any man with money, because their money can't help us and fix our problems. If you think it can, you're carnal and you're living in the wrong man, you're living in the old man, get out of him and start walking with God and trusting the Lord Jesus Christ.

We don't preach an athlete, we don't preach a celebrity or anybody of that nature as if they've got any cure for the problems of the human race. You got a problem?

We preach Christ Jesus the Lord because he's a problem solver. You feel alone? You get trouble with anxiety? You get trouble with your thoughts?

[22 : 29] You get trouble with your sins? Jesus Christ, he's the only answer you'll ever need. The Lord Jesus Christ. You got problems in your home? You got problems in your marriage?

You got problems with your children? You're not the only one in this world, but there's nothing Jesus Christ can't fix. When people come to him and they cry, his ears are open to their cry. When people show up to pray to him and talk to him, his arms are open to receive them. When people come to him with their life's problems, when they lay those burdens at his feet and they cry for help, his track record is perfect, folks.

He's never let anybody down. He's never met a sinner he can't save. He's never met a problem he can't fix. If you get messed into something and it hurts and it's heavy, you need to learn to trust him. You need to learn to lay that thing at his feet. There's a song that it's in the, well, we don't have it yet. We didn't sing it yet, but Lord willing, we'll be able to sing it here one day. It's called All Your Anxiety.

[23 : 31] And the song says this, Is there a heart or bound by sorrow? Is there a life weighed down by care? Come to the cross, each burden bearing all your anxiety.

Leave it there. No other friend so keen to help you. No other friend so quick to hear. No other place to leave your burden. No other one to hear your prayer.

Come then at once. Delay no longer. Heed his entreaty, kind and sweet. You need not fear a disappointment. You shall find peace at the mercy seat.

All your anxiety, all your care, bring to the mercy seat. Leave it there. Never a burden he cannot bear.

Never a friend like Jesus. So yes, we preach Christ Jesus the Lord because nobody, nobody ever like him.

[24 : 32] You've never met anybody like him. If you were friends with the most powerful people in the world, and they could give you all the money your heart desires and put you up in all the places you desire and you didn't have to pay for it, just had life of lap of luxury, whatever the word is, if that was you, do you think you would know what peace is and joy is and fulfillment is and forgiveness is?

You think sitting where you are that would make everything go away but you'd find out those people are wretches. They're miserable. They're spiteful. They're hateful.

They don't have the Lord Jesus Christ. They're dead in their trespasses and sins is what they are. Just because they're rich so stinking what?

They can't take it with them. You've got something that money can't buy. You've got the Lord Jesus Christ. You think those people could fix your problems? You're kidding. They can't touch the problems.

So we preach Christ Jesus the Lord. He solves problems. He fixed the best that we make for ourselves. I'm reminded of my own family and my son and daughter-in-law and since they're not here I'll talk about them.

[25 : 45] I'll talk about them anyway but you know father-in-law I can do that. But they got themselves into a problem and Carla and I still remember whenever it was two years ago or something sitting in my office after a Wednesday night church that these two kids have to sit down and tell us that they're pregnant and not married and making a mess and we sat there and we cried and we sat there and they were afraid and we had no idea this just felt like what a burden what a load where's this gonna go?

Only God knows because we didn't and I made a comment to them that night I said if the two of you will seek the Lord Jesus Christ he can make a way he's been dealing with stuff like this as long as man has been alive he can make a way for the two of you if you'll seek him and if you'll desire to do what's right and only God knows what the future holds for them but I'm thankful for his grace thus far in their life that they're married got two precious little babies and they're in Pennsylvania right now just enjoying themselves having a great time sending pictures together and just rejoices our hearts of the grace of God in their lives he's a problem fixer he can solve them if you seek him if you choose to do what's right he can make a way and beside all that there's one more thing while you're in Matthew look over at chapter 21 Jesus Christ saves sinners and we preach

Christ Jesus the Lord because he solves problems I've been on the receiving end of that more than once and there's something else that may not seem as likely to you but I want to show you this I think it's important is that Jesus Christ serves others and when people if you've got a message to tell and talk about somebody they don't want to hear about somebody that wants to take from them that wants to use them and abuse them they want to hear about somebody that's going to come and help them and so all the more reason to preach Christ Jesus the Lord because he can help not just problems but he's a servant of servants and it's not a likely thought about our Savior when you think of his deliverance of his salvation of him just being able to take your chaotic mess of a life and fix it but there's something else about him that we need to cover we need to consider this in our world in the public society there's public officials in our government that whether they're police officers or politicians whatever they are their job their duty and role is to serve the public and whether they do that or take advantage of the system that's another conversation but the idea is they are a public servant they exist to help and to sort out things and to keep you safe and serve protect you know that's their duty and role and function but that's far different than a king than a ruler they it's flipped for them you're my servant you exist to serve me to give me things that I want and the relationship is far different they exercise dominion and authority over their subjects so look at

Matthew 21 and the Lord Jesus Christ is describing I think it's 20 what am I talking about yeah 20 sorry Matthew 20 he's describing he's teaching something to his disciples and he's using himself as the example Matthew 20 and verse 25 but Jesus called them unto him and said ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them and they that are great exercise authority upon them but it shall not be so among you but whosoever will be great among you let him be your minister and whosoever will be chief among you let him be your servant even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many and so the term minister kind of gets tagged on a pastor or a preacher but the term applies to anybody anybody that's born again is to be a servant that's a term that Paul puts on himself a servant of Jesus

Christ he says the same thing about others Timothy and even to the churches calls them servants of the Lord Jesus Christ and Jesus we preach Jesus Christ the Lord because he serves others he came to serve the Bible says he took upon him the form of a servant didn't come like royalty or nobility meek and lowly I got to reference a song again and I could probably do a whole lot more of that tonight but just give you a number 49 in our hymnals called our great savior Jesus what a friend for sinners Jesus lover of my soul friends may fail me foes assail me he my savior makes me whole

Jesus what a strength and weakness let me hide myself in him tempted tried and sometimes failing
he my strength my victory wins

[31 : 30] Jesus what a help in sorrow while the billows o'er me roll even when my heart is breaking
he my comfort helps my soul Jesus what a guide and keeper while the tempest still is high storms
about me night or takes me he my pilot hears my cry Jesus I do now receive him more than all in
him I find he hath granted me forgiveness I am his and he is mine hallelujah what a savior hallelujah
what a friend saving helping keeping loving he is with me to the end he came to do more for me
than I will ever do for him than the lot of us together would ever do for him he's done more for us he
came to serve he came not to be ministered unto but to minister to others in John chapter 13 there's
one of the most humbling and bizarre situations the disciples of the Lord

Jesus Christ were put in a place that just made them feel so uncomfortable after supper the Lord
Jesus Christ gets up and he girds himself like what are you doing he's kind of getting himself an
apron kind of thing on like he's about to serve and they don't understand what's going on and the
next thing they know he's stooped down in front of them one by one and put their nasty gross feet in
his hands and water and washed them and then dried those men's feet with a towel it's the only
time in the Bible you'll see a man washing another man's feet it was a teaching moment and an
example to them of humility and of service and in that context he says you call me master and Lord
you say well for so I am and he's telling them yes I am your master but look what I just did and he
tells them that's how you're going to do to each other to one another you're going to learn how to
serve and how to be a minister he that will be great among you let him be your minister and it's
quite a thing there to see

Jesus Christ do that in front of them and Peter was resistant it was like this is so out of balance this
is so wrong you should not be washing my feet remember Peter earlier when he was in the boat
and the Lord shows that the fish in Peter's reaction is like depart from me like I'm such a sinful man
when he sees the deity of Christ on display and he feels the same way when Christ is bowing down
can you imagine Jesus Christ bowing down at him he just he feels so unworthy and uncomfortable
this shouldn't be and Christ made him sit there and washed his feet there's never been one greater
than the Lord Jesus Christ and yet he just stooped and lowers himself more and more and more
and it's a bit of a paradox because he's king of kings and he's lord of lords and yet he's servant of
servants it's so abnormal and it's so against our human nature of self promotion and self
glorification to put ourselves down but Jesus

Christ serves others and so we preach not ourselves but we preach Christ Jesus the Lord because
he saves and he solves and he serves what's not to like about all of that who else are you going to
preach who else are you going to use your life to lift up please tell me not you please tell me you're
not going to exalt yourself in this life or go about this life trying to make your way and make a name
for you at work why don't you make a name for Jesus Christ at work why don't you make a name for
Jesus Christ in the neighborhood make a name make him great in your family he's dependable he's
faithful he keeps his word he doesn't betray he doesn't mislead he won't ever sell you out he won't
leave you hanging he won't disown you he's lovely he's holy he's gentle he's so forgiving and kind
and compassionate what's not to like and so we preached not ourselves

God forbid we preach ourselves anything good about you and me is the Lord Jesus Christ I hope
you believe that I hope that sinks into you and you start to live that way because he's worth
preaching before I dismiss goodness we've got a few minutes and I'm curious if anybody here
would take advantage of an opportunity to say a word if you have a word to say a word or declare
something among God's people of what the Lord Jesus Christ means to you or something that he's
done for you in your life maybe something that came to mind while I was rattling off the salvation
and the problems and how he's done more for you than you could ever do for him maybe something
came to mind while I was highlighting some things the Lord may have brought that it doesn't have to
be dramatic it doesn't have to be deep it doesn't have to be better than the other persons in the
room is there something that you wouldn't mind publicly declaring tonight to your brothers and
sisters of Lord

[37 : 49] Jesus Christ what he's done for you anybody here tonight want to start it off yes sir