

Friday Men in Christ - Gary Henecke - November 22, 2024

1. Does the life of Jesus demand a Christology?
2. Religiosity - Jesuology - Christology.
3. Paul and the Jesus who is Lord - The Risen Crucified God!

We believe that on his way to Corinth in 50/51 AD Paul was centering his “Christology” - an understanding of the revelation of God - in Jesus - and why Israel missed it. Now - what is God - who is the Messiah - who is Israel???

When I came to you, brethren, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. (1Corinthians 2:1-2 RSV)

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1Co 1:18 RSV)



The connection of Corinth with the life of Paul and the early progress of Christianity is so close and eventful, that we must know as correct and clear an idea as possible of its social condition, and its relation to other parts of the Empire. Here is where Paul's first Epistles were written. His first epistle included in Scripture is the book of 1Thessalonians written in 50 A.D. from Corinth. It was followed by 2Thessalonians in 51. From here Paul goes to Ephesus, across the sea. In Ephesus he will write four letters to Corinth. In Corinth he will return and

write the epistle to The Romans.

We know that the Apostle's mind, on his arrival at Corinth, was still turning with affection and anxiety towards his converts at Thessalonica (only 3 Sabbath's ministry). In the midst of all his labors at the Isthmus, his thoughts were continually with those whom he had left in Macedonia. Although the Biblical narrative (Acts 18:1 - 4) tells us only of Paul's tent-making and preaching in the metropolis of Achaia, we discover, on a closer inquiry, that the Letters to the Thessalonians were written at this particular crisis.

Here Paul's Christology becomes clear to us - The Truth of the Cross. If Jesus is God's Messiah - Then God was in Christ and the Cross is a revelation of God's ethics - values - new creation.

Colossians 3:11 *Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.*

Galatians 2:19 *For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.*

Galatians 3:1 *O senseless Galatians, who cast a spell on you, that you should not obey the truth, before whom Jesus Christ hath been so clearly set forth, on his cross?*

Galatians 5:24 *Now those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

Galatians 6:14 *But may I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

1 Corinthians 1:22 *For Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks ask for wisdom, but we preach about a crucified Christ, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (1Corinthians 2:8 RSV)

