

Bride of Christ W4

The Rock 22/3/2015 PM

Can anyone tell me what the three-fold purpose that God has called us to at The Rock?

- *“To know Him, to love others, to walk together.”*

Yeah that’s right. It all starts with knowing Him. Do you know Him? I thought I did. Turns out I have only every known aspects of Him, and only to a very limited depth.

I have heard it said that all you need to know of Him is that “He is your saviour, and that salvation is found in Him alone.” Well that last part is true, Christ is our saviour, and salvation is found in Him alone, but that is not all that He is. That is not all there is to know about Him; that is not all that He wants us to know of Him.

► **Consider 1 Corinthians 2 verse 2:** *For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

This, on its own, sounds like Paul is teaching the only thing you need to know about Christ is that He is your saviour. Except that this verse is not on its own, it is just one line in a wider message about maturity. Paul continues...

³ *I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling.* ⁴ *My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,* ⁵ *so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power. God’s Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit* ⁶ **► do, however, speak** *a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.* ⁷ *No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.* ⁸ *None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.* ⁹ *However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”— the things God has prepared for those who love him—* ¹⁰ *these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.* ¹¹ *For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.* ¹² *What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may*

understand what God has freely given us.¹³ This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.¹⁵ The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments,¹⁶ for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

► *3¹ Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ.² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.³ You are still worldly.*

“Jesus Christ the saviour, come to take away the sins of the world”, is a crucial revelation. It is a foundational revelation. It is a revelation that we all need to receive, enter into, and respond to. But it is not the end of the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is in fact only the beginning. While Paul resolved to teach nothing but the gospel of Christ and Him crucified, that is not to say he did not have more to share. It’s just that’s all the Corinthians could handle at the time. That is all they could receive in their immaturity.

There is an old Indian parable that illustrates the issue that we often face here in the church over revelation, and that’s the parable of the ► **Blind men and the elephant**. If you’re not familiar with it, in a nut shell six blind men happen upon an elephant and they explore it by touch to learn what it is like. Each one feels a different part, but only one part. One man touches the flank of the elephant and declares the elephant is like a wall; another feels a tusk and proclaims that the elephant is like a spear; another feels the trunk and explains that the elephant is like a snake; the next one feels a leg and explains that the elephant is like a tree; the next one is feeling the elephant’s ear and is convinced that an elephant is like a fan; and the last one feels along the elephant’s tale and is convinced that the elephant is in fact like a rope.

Each of the blind men had a part of the revelation, but not the whole revelation. They had an experience of part of what an elephant was but could not see how their revelation was just part of the bigger picture. I believe it is exactly like this with God and our revelation of Him. We are all blind, feeling out our God, we each have a revelation of who He is, but not the full revelation of who He is.

Yes, He is saviour, but that is not all He is.

Yes, He is Father, but that is not all He is.

Yes, He is Son, but that is not all He is.

Yes, He is Spirit; but that that is not all He is.

Yes, He is King; yes, He is High Priest; Yes, He is prophet; Yes, He is Creator; Yes, He is friend; Yes, He is Lamb; Yes, He is Lion; Yes, He is Lord; Yes, He is Bridegroom. Do you know Him? Or do you just know some aspects of Him, and only to a limited measure? That's where I find myself. Sure, I know Him, but not as much as He wants me to know. He wants to reveal more of Himself, knowing that in that knowledge I will grow in maturity and intimacy, and in my own identity which is found in Him.

So yeah, I know Christ as saviour, but He wants me to know more. I know God as Father, but He wants me to know more. I know God as Creator, but He wants me to know more. And that brings us to this: I don't really know Christ **▶ as Bridegroom**. There's this whole revelation of Him throughout scripture that I have been blind to. But He wants me to come into that knowledge, that maturity, that intimacy; and not just me, but all of us. And that is why we have been focused on this revelation this month, and over the last couple of years.

That is why I have been up late at Curtis's place soaking up the revelation that He has received. I want to know Christ more, and Curtis knows Him in ways I don't; so does Greg; so does Mel. So do you. I want to know Him in every way that I can, and that is why I love this environment. In this environment I can not only pour over the Scriptures with you, but I can also hear from my Spirit-filled brothers and sisters how God has revealed Himself to them; and from the word, and their testimonies continue to build a bigger, more accurate revelation of who God is, and who I am in Him.

And so I've been looking forward to hearing from Mel tonight, because she has something that I don't, and I want it, I want everything that God has for me. I want to be mature, I want to know Him more, do you? To that end, let's get Mel up to share an aspect of how God has revealed Himself to her in His word, and in His relationship with her, Mel...