

Which Side of the Cross Are We On?

2 Corinthians 5:14-21



I grew up in a liberal church where the gospel was never preached; the great emphasis was upon the earthly life and ministry of Christ (the Sermon on the Mount, the Golden Rule, loving your neighbor, etc.). Admittedly, the Gospels are of immense value to the believing heart. All Scripture is profitable and valuable. Yet, carefully consider the words of Paul, “Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, **yet now henceforth know we Him no more**” (2 Cor. 5:16). The Epistles were given, not so that we would know Christ after the flesh, but that we would know our risen and ascended Saviour who, having finished His perfect work on the cross, is now seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest.

If you read through the New Testament beginning with Acts, continuing through all the Epistles and ending with Revelation, you will find the following:

183 verses speak of Christ’s death, 97 verses of His resurrection, 162 verses of His heavenly life and ministry (Intercessor, Advocate, High Priest, etc.), and 203 verses speak of His return. **Only 12 passages speak of His earthly life and ministry!** (Acts 2:22; 10:38; 20:35; 1 Tim. 3:16; 6:13; 1 Pet. 2:21-23; 4:1; 2 Pet. 1:15-18; Heb. 4:15; 5:7; 12:3; 1 John 2:6).

In the New Testament Epistles the great emphasis is upon the heavenly life and ministry of our exalted Lord, the Head of the Church. May we never forget that our Lord Jesus is on the resurrection side of the cross. He is risen, ascended, glorified and exalted. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth” (Col. 3:1-2).

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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