**What It Means to Preach Christ**

**Introduction:**

Read Acts 8:5. “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.” NKJV Philip began preaching Christ to them. But what is involved in “preaching Christ”?

**Body:**

1. **It Means Preaching about Christ.** (Acts 8:5)
* Old Testament prophecies about Christ (John 5:39) “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” (Luke 24:44) “Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ ” (Acts 2:16) “But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:” NKJV
* His teachings and miracles (Acts 2:22) “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know -” NKJV
* His death on the cross (Acts 2:23) “Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;” (Acts 10:39) “And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.” NKJV
* His resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:32) “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.” (Acts 10:40) “Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly,” NKJV
* His ascension into heaven and His reigning (Acts 2:30-33) “Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.” NKJV
* His coming return (Acts 10:42) “And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.” NKJV
1. **It Means Preaching His Kingdom** (Acts 8:12) “But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.” NKJV
* Kingdom – the rule of God (Acts 1:3) “to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” Since those in the Kingdom are the same as those in the church, Philip preached the church. (Matthew 16:18-19) “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” NKJV
* This meant preaching Christ as both builder and head of the church. (Ephesians 1:22-23) “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” NKJV
* He is Savior of the church, the Kingdom. (Ephesians 5:23-25) “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,” NKJV
* “Good News” – the Kingdom had come and they could become citizens of it.
1. **It Means Preaching His Name** (Acts 8:12)
* His Name is all that He stands for.
* A penitent believer is immersed in His name. (Acts 2:38) “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” NKJV
* His name is the only one under heaven by which one may be saved. (Acts 4:12) “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.’ ” NKJV
1. **It Means Preaching His Plan of Salvation** (Acts 8:12)
* If preaching Christ did not include baptism, the Samaritans would not have known to be baptized.
* Jesus taught the need for repentance and baptism. (Luke 13:3) “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.” (Matthew 28:19) “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” NKJV
* One is baptized into Christ. (Galatians 3:26-27) “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” NKJV
1. **It Means Preaching the Obligations of His Followers**
* Attend the assemblies (Hebrews 10:25) “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” NKJV
* Grow in Christian graces (II Peter 1:5-7) “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.” NKJV
* Deny oneself (Matthew 16:24) “Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” NKJV

**Conclusion:**

Preaching Christ involves the great truths of the gospel. These truths need to be proclaimed to the whole world. When believed and obeyed, they bring life everlasting.

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