

Daily Devotional, January 19, 2021

“The Doctrine of Christ”, (2 John 9, NKJV)

“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.” (2 John 9)

Christ is indispensable. If anyone does not have Christ, and believe upon Him as the divine Son of God, then that one does not have God. There is no reconciliation, no fellowship, no communion, no intimate prayers, and no heavenly inheritance. *“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world”* (1 John 4:2-3). *“God was manifested in the flesh”* in the Person of Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 3:16).

Take a look at our text. The phrase *“the doctrine of Christ”* appears twice in it. Jesus Himself said, *“My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority”* (John 7:16-17). The early church *“continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine”* (Acts 2:42). Christian friends, we must read the Bible, study it, and get *“the doctrine of Christ”* straight! Let us be sure to have the gospel straight first of all. We are all sinners in need of a Savior. God provided His Son as the divine sacrifice for our sins, that His wrath might be satisfied. Jesus rose from the dead to display His power and prove His victory over death. Those who simply believe in faith are guaranteed eternal life in heaven with God the Father and God the Son (*John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:8-9*). Having started there, be sure to get your doctrine from the Bible. Tradition and experience are very nice, but they are not always *“the doctrine of Christ.”* Be like the Bereans of old, *“in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so”* (Acts 17:11). Judge what I say, what the preacher says, and what your church statement says by the Word of God. It is knowledge of *“the doctrine of Christ”* that will help you grow in your faith, and become a mature Christian that is steadfast in times of joy, and even more so in times of trial and tribulation. Become a giant in the faith. Get on your knees in prayer, break in that Bible, ask the Lord for a hunger for His Word, and get in a Bible-believing church and take advantage of its offerings. May the knowledge of *“the doctrine of Christ”* not only inform your spirit, but may it also take such root in your life that you live a holy life of service to Jesus Christ. If doctrine does not have results in your life, it is mere formalism. Don’t fall into that trap. May you know true doctrine, and may you have a life to match.