

Topical | 50 | Christ After the Flesh, Know We Him No More | 2 Cor. 5:9-21

I. Intro/Review:

- Knowing Christ

- **Philippians 3:8** - "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,"
- **2 Corinthians 4:6** - "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

- Misuse of 2 Cor. 5:16

- Some use this verse as an excuse to not read the gospel accounts (in the days of His flesh) - always connected with our humanity.
 - See! I don't have to know Him after the flesh!
 - **First** - it isn't a command! - Don't know Christ after the flesh
 - **Secondly** - we are to know Christ no more after the flesh as much as we know no man after the flesh
 - Christ is being used to validate the point of how we "judge" men
 - Man has no superiority in the flesh in view of the resurrection
 - **Thirdly** - there is a difference of how they knew Him to how they came to know Him
 - After the flesh
 - After the Spirit
 - Not an issue of what scriptures to study or not or whether you can or can't, should or shouldn't learn about Christ after the flesh.
 - For me it's like using the expression "kingdom program", I've used it before, an expression used to discuss God's covenants with Israel on the earth and His kingdom. Yet, I see in the dispensation of His grace the fulness of His kingdom program - it isn't ultimately divorced from each other.
 - I see grace in the gospel of the kingdom and I see the kingdom in the gospel of His grace

II. Preview:

1. Context
2. Christ After the Flesh
3. Know We Him No More

4. Should We Know Christ After the Flesh?

III. Sermon:

1. Context

- **First Layer**
 - **2 Cor. 3:1-18** - Paul an able minister of the new testament
 - v13 - "...the children of Israel"
 - v14 - "...but their minds were blinded"
 - v14 - "for until THIS DAY remaineth the same vail untaken away"
 - "vail" = "minds were blinded"
 - v15 - "But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart."
 - **2 Cor. 4:1-4** - The god of this world blinds the minds that don't believe Paul's gospel
 - v2 - "But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty"
 - "not walking in craftiness"
 - "nor handling the word of God deceitfully"
 - "but by manifestation of the truth"
 - "commending ourselves to **every man's conscience** in the sight of God."
- **Second Layer**
 - Paul's persecution
 - Acts 13:45, 50
 - Acts 14:1-5, 19
 - Acts 16:3
 - Acts 17:1, 5, 10, 13
 - **Acts 18:1-8 - Corinthians**
 - Acts 20:3, 19
 - Acts 21:21-28, 39-22:30
 - Acts 23:12
 - Acts 24:5
 - Acts 25:2, 7, 24
 - 1 The. 2:14-16
 - The Jew's religion had embraced that God would never provide blessing to the Gentiles contrary to the Abrahamic Covenant and the prophets.
 - The Gentiles were the sinners deserving of destruction. The Jew's religion had adopted Jonah's mentality and attitude against the Gentiles.
 - The Jew's religion with its leaven of the Pharisees and traditions of the elders made Israel dark and blind to the light of Christ and to never turn from the law (which they added to) or the temple.
 - Therefore, going to the Gentiles or saying God is going to the Gentiles was blasphemous to the Jew's religion and why it was so hard for Jews to leave the

religion and the temple - according to the writer of Hebrews.

- **Third Layer**

- 2 Cor. 5:9-11
 - v11 - Paul persuades men knowing he must appear before the judgment seat of Christ
 - v12 - Paul looking for the Corinthians to commend Paul to have a "somewhat answer" to them which "glory in appearance".
- Those that "glory in appearance" are in contrast to those that "glory in heart".
 - Now this would address the flesh's tendency to "glory in appearance" and both Jews and Gentiles would do that.
 - 1 Cor. 1 - no flesh (Rom. 3 - no flesh justified by the deeds of the law)
 - Yet, the Word of God says much about this with the Jews
 - Isa. 29:13 (Matt. 13:15, 15:8, Acts 28:27), 47:8; Acts 7:51
 - Jn. 8:33 - Abraham's seed - never in bondage
 - Interpretation
 - Jn. 8:34-36 - servant of sin - Son shall make you free
 - Jn. 8:37 - Abraham's seed (sperma)
 - Jn. 8:38 - father's
 - Abraham - Matt. 3:9
 - Jn. 8:39 - Abraham's children
 - Jn. 8:41 - We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.
 - Either a reference to idolatry or the sin of fornication
 - Purely from Sarah not Hagar or Keturah
 - A pure genealogy
 - Holiness from the womb - Gal. 2 - Jews by nature
 - Jn. 8:44 - Ye are of your father the devil
 - Flesh and Spirit
 - Jn. 3:1-21
 - Carnal relationship, or outward succession are useless and vain
 - Rom. 2, 9
- I believe Paul is addressing the flesh's tendency to "glory in appearance".
 1. 1 Cor. 1 - wisdom, mightiness, nobility (no flesh should glory in His presence)
 2. 2 Cor. 5 - glory in outward appearance
- 2 Cor. 5:14 - Paul's Judgment
 1. If one died for all
 2. Then were all dead

3. He died for all, that they which live should live not unto themselves but unto Him, who rose again

2. Christ After the Flesh

- Don't say "Jesus" - "Christ" - Davidic Cov. - the Lord - resurrection and ascension
 - 1 Cor. 12:3
- Things Concerning Christ after the Flesh
 - Made Flesh - Jn. 1:14 (incarnation)
 - Born in Bethlehem - Luke 2
 - Israelite - Rom. 9:3-5
 - Circumcision - Luke 2:21; Rom. 15:8-12
 - Seed of David - Matt. 1; Rom. 1
 - Under the Law - Gal. 4:4
 - Teaching - Sermon on the Mount/Parables
 - Miracles, Signs, and Wonders - profuse outpouring - shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom - Heb. 6:5
 - High Priest - Heb. 5:7
 - Death - Crucifixion

3. Know We Him No More

- What does this mean?
- We don't know Him after the flesh "no more".
- This doesn't mean we can't know Him after the flesh, or we shouldn't know Him after the flesh
- In fact, it is vital to know Him after the flesh -
 1. The Gospel of God - Rom. 1:1-3 - made according to the seed of David
 2. Paul's Gospel - 2 Tim. 2:8 - remember...my gospel
 3. Made Himself of No Reputation - Php. 2:5-8
 - Bethlehem
 - Low Estate of Parents
 - Shepherds
 - Born of a woman
 - No Room in the inn
 - Learned - Heb. 5:8
 - Made Perfect - Heb. 2:10, 5:9
 4. Made Under the Law to Redeem them Under the Law that we may receive adoption - Gal. 4:5
 5. His Death - "being made conformable unto His death" - Php. 3:10
- The issue is we know Him after the flesh NO MORE
 - Christ Himself was trying to get people to see more than just His flesh
- In view of knowing Him no more and being resurrection we don't see men the same (we thus judge)
 - You either in Christ or not

- You either His or you aren't
- You are either alive or dead

4. Should We Know Christ After the Flesh?

- Yes! It is why we have the gospels, it is why Paul brings these things up
- Yet, we know Christ after the flesh no more, this isn't all we know about Him, we know Him in His resurrection
 - All power and authority
 - Should live unto Him
 - All give an account to Him
- His resurrection ushers in something not fleshly, but being a new creature
- Importance
 - 1 John 4:2-3

IV. Conclusion:

- This isn't a verse to justify not reading the gospel accounts.
- This isn't a verse to attach to 2 Cor. 11:4 and say when Jesus was in the flesh that was "another Jesus" therefore we don't need to concern ourselves Jesus' earthly ministry, and once again not read the gospel account.