

Hebrews 13:7-16

3-29-15

Jesus Christ, eternally the same, eternally contemporary

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. **Slide2 Baby Dedication:** (2nd) Ramon & LorNa Sanchez, Sebastian Sanchez.
- B. **Slide3 Empowered to Connect Conf:** Empowered to Connect Conference is a *Live Simulcast* led by Dr. Karyn Purvis (Director of the TCU Institute of Child Development). This conference is ideal for **adoptive** and **foster** parents, **those** considering adoption or foster care **and those** who are serving and supporting others, including social workers, agency professionals, church staff and ministry leaders, counselors, therapists and really *anyone* who is involved with *children that have experienced trauma, abuse, or exposure to drugs/alcohol abuse*.
 - 1. This conference brings understanding to the **behaviors** and **challenges** that children face that have been through trauma and other life changing difficulties. Through research Dr. Purvis explains **how the brain functions** because of **trauma, health issues or drug/alcohol exposure**. Other guest speakers share their *tips, trials, challenges, and miracles* in their families. [Teachers: also up to 11 CEU's *Continuing Education Units*] \$15 by April 1.
- C. **Slide4 Easter Times** - 7, 8:30, 10am Inside in Sanct & professional screen/sound system in gym. *Never tried. [1] Some can't attend outside (harder for elderly, & young moms w/kids). [2] More inviting for neighbors/non-bel. 's. [3] Then later we found out \$ savings pay for all carpet.*

II. Slide5 **Intro:**

- A. **Title:** *Jesus Christ, eternally the same, eternally contemporary*
- B. **Outline:** *The Leaders & The Leader. Grace or Grub. Inside or Outside. Worship & Work.*

III. Slide6 **THE LEADERS & THE LEADER (7,8)**

- A. (7a) *Who leads you* here at CM? *Who speaks to you the word of God* through teaching or counseling at CM? [*that's* our pastoral staff, Kelly/women, all of our ministry leaders, etc.]
 - 1. *Pray for your spiritual leaders. Thank you, for notes of encouragement, & paychecks for each of our staff. But* the best thing that you can do for us is **pray** for us. *As we speak to you, on behalf of God; you should speak to God on behalf of us.*
- B. (7b) *Whose faith follow* - We'll make mistakes, **but** overall we should have a good track record. *You should see our faith in action. You should see our life matching our words.*

1. Our church needs **good leaders** and it needs **good followers**. This provides both the *harmony* and *unity* God is looking for.

C. Slide7,8 (8) We sure live in *changing* times.

1. Not long ago we used to have...*The Motion Picture Production Code*. This was the set of **industry moral guidelines** that was applied to most U.S. motion pictures released by major studios from 1930-1968. It is also popularly known as **the Hays Code**, after Will H. Hays. (who was a Presbyterian Elder)

a) Slide9a In 1968, after several years of *minimal enforcement*, the outdated Production Code was replaced by the **MPAA film rating system** (G,PG,PG-13,R,X,NC17).

2. Cal Thomas [political columnist] wrote, For 35 years, the *Motion Picture Production Code* served as a **moral guideline** for American filmmakers. The code, to Slide9b which filmmakers were required to adhere, included this paragraph: *"No picture shall be produced which will lower the moral standards of those who see it. Hence the sympathy of the audience shall never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil, or sin."*

(1) We all would agree...my how times have **changed**.

3. We do live in such a **changing** environment.
 - a) Our **earth suits** move from tight pink as a baby to wrinkly as we grow old. Our **personalities** either grow sweeter with age or grow sour. Our **relationships w/others** constantly **change**...for better or for worse. Our **environment** transforms before our very eyes (leaves on the trees, to a rivers banks). We marvel at the speed of **change** in the fields of *electronics, medicine, technology*.
4. We laugh & weep, work & play...& then we're gone.
 - a) We've all heard *the only thing that is sure...is change*.
 - b) Our souls long for something **solid**. And **here** we have the most firm **rock-solid foundation** found in all of scripture...read vs.8

D. Slide10a Jesus Christ, eternally the same, eternally contemporary.

1. Our **soul** longs for stability, our **heart** for solidity. Our **emotions** for steadiness, our **mind** for soundness.
 - a) God **the father** doesn't change. God **the Son** doesn't change. And God **the H.S.** doesn't either.

- b) **Slide10b** The writer of Ps.102 contrasts: *Long ago You laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. They will perish, but You remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment and discard them. But You are always the same; You will live forever.* Ps.102:25-27
2. **Slide11a** God is **unchanging in...His being, perfections, purposes, & promises.**¹
 3. Malachi said of God, **For I am the LORD, I do not change.** (3:6)
 - a) **Slide11b** He is **immutable**, He **will not change**. He is **all-wise**, He **need not change**. He is **perfect**, He **cannot change**.
 4. **What** can you & I treasure from this doctrine? It answers...*Is it possible to have close fellowship w/God that people had during biblical days? And...*
 - a) *Do you think God's less willing to answer prayer today then He was in bible times?*
 5. Jesus Christ, eternally the same, eternally contemporary.

IV. **Slide12 GRACE OR GRUB (9,10)**

A. (9) So if *Jesus* never changes then *His truths* surely won't.

1. We're not exactly sure what *their* immediate problem was, but obviously they held to some **sacred menu**, thinking it would make them *more spiritual* than the rest
 - a) It's **Grace...not foods**. It's **Grace...not a certain day** of the week. It's **Grace...not** which **gift** the H.S. has gifted you with. It's **Grace... not** how often you take **communion**. It's **Grace...not when** you think **Jesus is returning**.

B. **Slide13** Kent Hughes gives an analogy of **grace** being *like rain descending upon us*.

But any that **stand proudly**, when **grace** falls upon them *it drips away like rain from a statue*. Yet like water flowing continuously to the lowest places of the earth, so the **Grace** of God continues to bring *life, growth & nourishment* to those lowly in heart.

1. Thus w/the Pharisee & the Tax collector (explain Lk.18:9-14). Again if **Grace** was **rain**, then the one, was a **cold dead statue** & the other, a **dry thirsty sponge**.

C. On one of my 1st trips to Belize, we went with the group out to dinner. Bob Marley our waiter comes over, I'm 1st. I order from the menu. *I'll have the hamburger*. He responds, *No man! I'll have the fish*. He responds, *No man!* (Now, John Gotz is bent over laughing at me, I'm not understanding) You simply ask *what they have that day...& thats what you want*.

¹ Wayne Grudem Systematic Theology; pg.163 (taken from Berkof's)

1. On God's menu is **1 selection...Grace**...if you try to order anything else...**you have no right to eat.** 10b

D. **Slide14** The altar proclaims that God & man *may meet*. Lev.15, **5x's** w/insistent explicitness prescribes *all sacrifices* to be done there.

E. The altar is *the cosmic collision* of a holy God & sinful man.

F. The altar screams of sacrifice **where** God is pleased & alienated man is reconciled.

1. **Nothing** in our universe is more important to us human beings **than the altar**, the place where God & men meet.

G. **Slide15** We commemorate **this altar** this Friday, *Good Friday*, because **this altar** is **the Cross**.

1. **The Cross**, the Hinge of History. **The Cross**, the Lightning Rod of Grace. **The Cross**, the last argument of God. Spurgeon

V. **Slide16 INSIDE OR OUTSIDE? (11-14)**

A. On the **Day of Atonement** 2 animals were slain:

B. **A bull** (for the priest & his family) & **a lamb** (for the rest of the people).

1. **The blood of both** these sacrifices was taken **into** the Holy of Holies.

2. **Both carcasses** were taken **outside** the camp & burnt.

C. **Slide17** **Jesus** the ultimate Lamb sacrifice, was taken a few blocks **outside the Damascus Gate** in Jerusalem (north), & sacrificed there.

1. **Then**, they needed to come to Him...**out of** the old Jewish system.

2. **Today**, we must step **outside** the gates of *religiosity or legalism or any man-made system* to find Christ.

a) This speaks to whatever is the *religious establishment* of the day. Whether of *Judaism* or of a *distorted Christianity*.²

3. Since he died **outside the camp** He has made Himself **accessible** to **anyone in the world** who will come to Him.

D. **Slide18** (12,13) Soren Kierkegaard said, **God creates** out of **nothing**. Wonderful, you say. Yes, to be sure, **but** he does what is still *more wonderful*: He makes **saints** out of **sinners**.

1. **Jesus** planted His cross **in the world** so **all** the world could have access. **And there** He remains *permanently available*. Hughes

² Ray Stedman; pg.154

E. (14) It's like the horse that invariably **comes home** in less time than he makes on the **journey away**. *He runs home w/a faster pace...when his face is toward **home**.* [barn sour]

1. May there be **joy** in our hearts **as** we **face our Fathers home & our resting place**.

VI. Slide19,20 **WORSHIP & WORK (15,16)**

A. May we be like **human sunflowers** always seeking to **face the light**.

1. Notice the expectation...that it is to be **continually** practiced. Constant spiritual activity.

a) There is nothing **occasional** about the true-Christian life...**it is continual**.

2. **The fruit of the lips** ought to be the overflow of the full heart.³

3. The ancients argued that a **thank-offering** was *more acceptable* to God **than a sin-offering**. For when a man offered a **sin-offering** he was trying to *get something for himself*, **while** a thank-offering was the *unconditional offering of a grateful heart*.

4. A. W. Tozer said, **Gratitude** is an offering precious in the sight of God, **and** it's 1 that the poorest of us can make & be not poorer **but richer** for having made it.

B. Slide21 (15) **As Martin Luther** said as he lay on his deathbed...between groans he preached... "*these pains & troubles here are like **the type that printers set**. When we look at them, we see them **backwards**, and they seemed to **make no sense & have no meaning**. But up there, when the Lord God prints out our life to come, we will find **they make splendid reading**.*" [so, **praise & thanks** given, even when we don't understand]

C. So to **please God** both **worship & work** are as important to have *together* as... a **sail** **and** a **mast** is, to a sail boat.

1. They are a **bloodless sacrifice** **and** **holy & well pleasing** unto God.

D. Slide22,23 No other **Altar**. No other **Sacrifice**. No other **Lamb**. No other **Hope**. No other **Cross**. No other **Calvary**. No other **hiding-place**. No other **blood**. No other **Name** under heaven given among men by which we may be saved. *His name is Jesus!* Do you know Him?

³ Wycliffe Bible Commentary; pg.1426