The Mind of Christ

“Why Did Jesus Have to Die, Even Unto Death on the Cross?”

Pastor Thomas began Bible Study with the question of “Why Did Jesus Have to Die?” He became “Obedient”, unto death even “Death on the Cross.”

Philippians 2:5-11: The Humbled and Exalted Christ

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Pastor said that is a great theological treatise by the Apostle Paul.

John 6: 35-37: The Bread from Heaven

35 And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Pastor asked: Does it make a difference where they come from? Can you differentiate between “the all”? Who is in the all? Who is everybody? Pastor said: it is every white, black, brown person, every man, woman, whatever has breath – whosoever will.

Pastor asked: Do you believe every living person on the planet has heard about Jesus Christ? There are some people who have yet to hear about Jesus Christ (the salvation of Jesus). Then why would we still be sending out missionaries? Pastor said missionaries are sent throughout the globe to tell people about Jesus Christ. There are people in tribes in Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Kenya, who have not heard about the saving power of Jesus Christ, since everybody has not heard about him. The reason why Jesus has not come back is because they have no heard.

Pastor said: When Jesus says all that the Father gives me will come to me and the one who comes to me, I will not cast them out. God is still doing this great work for the cause of making sure people at least know that he is the Savior.
**John 10: 15-16:** Jesus the Good Shepherd

15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.
16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Pastor asked: Who are the other sheep – Jews, Gentiles? As believers we cannot say who can or cannot be saved. Our job is to let our light shine so that a Jew, Gentile, Muslim, Iranian, Jihad or whoever can see the light of Jesus Christ shining through us. **Pastor said:** One of the prevalent issues in Christendom is whether the gay community can be saved – **he died for all.** We cannot exclude anyone because Jesus Christ “**died for all people.**” One of the great misnomers of the church is that once we get saved we don’t think Jesus can save anyone else. **If Jesus can save you he is able to save anybody else!**

**John 11: 49-52:** The Plot to Kill Jesus

49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.” 51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, 52 and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

Pastor asked: How many know there are still believers hiding in Russia and China? If they get caught with a Bible they will be executed on the spot. There are still people in Eastern Europe who cannot worship freely and still being persecuted for the cause of Christ. Jesus is still in the process of **“Gathering.”** This is why we cannot cease being about our Father’s business, e.g. letting our light shine, being a witness, and being a disciple for Christ. If you don’t tell somebody, then somebody else will tell it for you.

**Why Did Jesus Have to Die?**

1. For “the All”
2. For the Other Sheep (which are not of this fold)
3. Gather Those Who Have Been Scattered

Pastor asked Minister Toneta West to close out Bible study with a short sermon.

**Minister Toneta West’s Sermon:**

Minister West offered a prayer and gave the congregation scripture **Psalm 119: 133:** “Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.” Minister West said, the steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord and he delighted in his way. The reason the Lord does not give you your whole vision, purpose and plan at one time is because you would leave him, not have a prayer life and run ahead of him. The Word says “order my steps in your Word.” You must understand the plan God has for you (Jeremiah 29:11). God has a plan for your life and he is the Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the ending). God knows you from before and already knows what your plan is. As Christians, we must get in line with what God
wants us to do. God wants to get us to our ending, by walking with him step by step, day by day and moment by moment. God promised that he would never leave us or forsake us – we are walking towards the expected end. **Stay in God’s “Word.”**

Next Bible Study is on Tuesday, October 2nd at 7:00pm.