

June – July 2020

**Faith
&
Family**

Connecting the Community to the Christ

Connect

A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church

Christ Is All I Need
by Pastor Mike Ennis

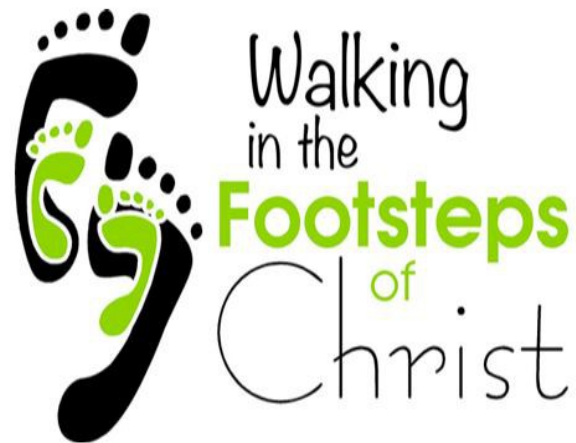
Our church, on occasion, sings a little chorus that goes like this.

*Christ Is All I Need
Christ is all I need
Christ is all I need
All, all I need.
Christ is all I need
Christ is all I need
All, all I need.*

*He was crucified
For me He died, on Calvary.
He loved me so,
This is why I know
Christ is all I need.*

It is an amazingly simple little chorus that is loaded with theological truth. When it comes to what it means to be a Christian, thoughts are all over the place. Some think that Christianity is simple another among the thousands of religions in the world. Others believe that Christianity is a good moral code to live by and that Christ was a great moral teacher. Still others would regulate Christianity to religious things that you

do. Many of the definitions of Christianity mention that sacraments and good deeds are what make you a Christian.



Others think that going to Church makes you a Christian or if you are an American you are a Christian. Still others make it a family thing, “my parents were Christians, so I am a Christian”. I am afraid that many people, even many who claim to be Christians, really do not know what it means to be a Christian.
(see “All I Need” Page 7)

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Mike Ennis – Senior Pastor

Morris Starkey - Editor

Landon Bagley -Associate Pastor

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We Are Strengthened Through Our Trials by Sim Lee

Through our trials we are made stronger in our faith and when we emerge from them, sometimes it is to criticism or even to being shunned. The world does not care for you becoming stronger than their position upon or their acceptance of certain moral issues.

Those who follow Christ know they shall suffer for His name, for it is written that "And you will be hated by all for my name's sake." Mark 13:13 EVS

It is through our trials that we learn to trust more in God each time, and to gradually gain a better understanding of God's will for us in applying His Word to the world's circumstances.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Colossae and urged them to try gain an understanding of God's will, it was so they might live in the light of Christ, so pleasing to God. Paul also tried to impress on them that God is also pleased when one is silent in their trials.

From Paul's time, unto our time and on until the end of days, trials have been one way that God has honed and matured us for His purpose.

The Apostle Peter may have said it best, ""But if when you do what is right and

suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God." 1 Peter 2:20 NAS (Free Use)



Faith & Freedom meets every Wednesday and Friday evening at 7:00 pm. Wednesday evening sessions are on dealing with a troubled soul and how it impacts wrong behavior. Friday evening sessions deal with addictions and how to deal with them from a Biblical perspective and find victory and freedom in Christ.



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His Banner Over Me Was Love
Song of Solomon 2:4
by C.D. Swanson

God is love. His love cannot be described as we understand love, for His capacity to love us, supersedes our ability to love Him. It's beyond our basic understanding, in our current realm, to grasp or comprehend His love. His quality of love differs tremendously from our own. We walk under His banner of love, His canopy of love. He loves us, even when we stray from the fold. His love is changeless.



He loves us when we wander from His will or fall into a mishap that defies His commandments. His love is certain. He loves us even when we disobey Him or fall prey to foolish things in the flesh. His love is dependable. He loves us unconditionally, purely, and without any doubt. We walk under His banner of love. So, never think for one moment that He would walk away in dismay, for His love

endures. His love never fails. His love is unchanging, certain, and dependable. God is the same today, tomorrow, and forever. So, release any of your misconceptions or doubts about His love. He loved you before you were born, and loves you here on earth, as He will forever. Put on your Gospel Armor! God is here, with you in the turbulence! Trust entirely in His love and allow it to dismantle all of your anxiety and fear. If God is for you, who can be against you? God and His love...how amazing, is He? Let's rejoice under His canopy, and smile, knowing He loves us – in no uncertain terms. We can depend on Him forever, no matter what "giants" we are facing today. "Father, I rejoice under Your banner of love, and protection, no matter how dark it gets in the world, Your light shines over me. Thank You, in Jesus name, Amen." (Free Use)



Seek first
the kingdom of
God
MATTHEW 6:33

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Our Children Are Being Forced To Grow Up Too Soon

by Sim Lee

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6 KJV


Our children are being forced to mature earlier due to their exposure of the last 20 years to more mature movie and cable theme entertainment. I say forced because they have few options or alternative viewing on a national scale.



The film and cable industry always responds to questions about this with 'they are just giving the public what it wants', and showing little intention to change things. This attitude of emphasis on driving profits even carries over to the news networks, such as Fox News has been informed by their film producers not to refer to special religious documentaries as being "faith based" because people are less likely to want to watch it.

The influence of effects of children viewing shows like Family Guy and the effects of playing violent video games are adverse to normal child development and should correctively addressed. In consideration of the increase in the number and types of new media services becoming affordable available to all, our priority should be to boycott anything that is counter productive to our children's best interests. Our children are the faces and minds of our country's future and our best hope for the continuation of the American Way. Sim Lee is a retired NE Iowan who loves all of God's creatures, including mosquitoes.

(Free Use)



Your
word
is a lamp
to guide my feet
and
a light
for my path.

Psalms 119:105

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God's Plan For Your Salvation

1) God Loves You

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

2) We have all sinned.



God is Holy and Perfectly Just. He cannot ignore our sins or sweep them under the rug. All of us have lied, stolen, cheated, been selfish, lusted, coveted and much more numerous times. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23*
As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one. Romans 3:10

Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins. Eccl 7:20

3) Sin leads to death and punishment.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23

And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous (those who believe) into eternal life." Matt 25:46

4) In mercy and grace God paid for our sins in full to save us from the penalty of sin.

He offers the free gift of forgiveness, righteousness and salvation to all who believe.

She will give birth to a son, and you shall give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. Matt 1:21

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:17

but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.. Romans 5:8

He was delivered over to death for our trespasses (sins) and was raised to life for our justification.

Rom 4:25

For at just the right time, while we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Rom 5:6

5) Jesus came to proclaim the Gospel (Good News) that the sins of all who believe are forgiven in him.

He did not come to count or hold our sins against us.

...in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses (sins) against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Cor 5:19

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12

However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. Rom 4:5

6) All May Be Saved Now

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Romans 10:13

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' Acts 2:21

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

"Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law... Acts 13:38-39

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Rom 10:9

7) This is God's promise to those who believe, trust in Jesus.

"I will forgive their iniquity, I will remember their sin no more." Jer 31:34b

8) Accept Jesus now

Put all your faith in Jesus and Jesus alone to give you eternal life.

Please email us at

editorfaithandfamily@gmail.com if you have questions about this matter or any question you may have.

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NEW SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Prayer Time 9:00 am

Sunday School 10:00 am

Worship Hour 11:00 am

(Early Worship is at 10:00 am)

Come out, bring your friends
and family and worship the
Lord with the people at Victory!



Do you need
counseling?

Victory Baptist Church offers
FREE counseling
to families and individuals.

Call 453-9768 for information or to set up
an appointment.

Look for a church that:

1. Worships Jesus Christ, preaches the biblical gospel, and practices the ordinances of believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper..

2. Encourages service. The church offers opportunities for you to serve and practice Christ-like behavior and pursue sanctification. We are not talking about glamorous or spotlight opportunities, we are talking about opportunities for you to serve: children's ministry, small groups, compassion ministries, hospitality, prayer, outreach, etc.

3. Encourages mission. The church encourages you to bring your non-Christian friends and to share the gospel with them. As a larger community they are concerned with, in word and deed, those who do not know Jesus.

4. Encourages community. The church takes relationships, accountability and one-anothering seriously. There are opportunities for you to be involved in smaller groups and to develop Christ-centred relationships with people of all ages. A healthy Christ-like community loves, values and encourages members of all ages to love and serve one another.

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(“All I Need” from Page 1)

Three times in the New Testament people are called Christians. Acts 11:26 (AV)

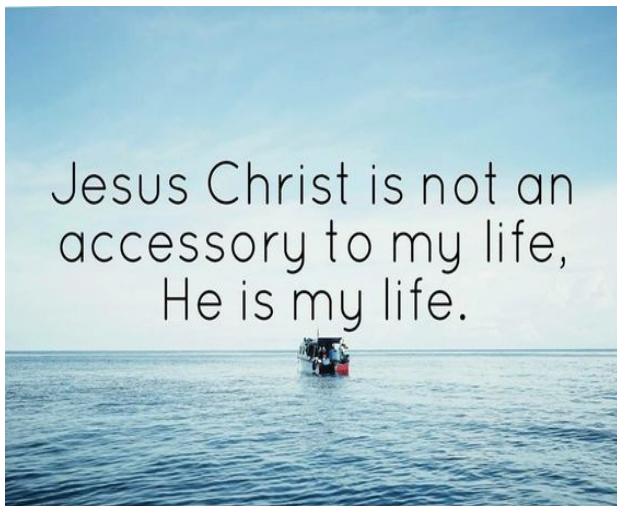
²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Acts 26:28 (AV)

²⁸ Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

1 Peter 4:16 (AV)

¹⁶ Yet if *any man suffer* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.



The word Christian means one who is a believer in and a follower of Christ. But it has a deeper spiritual meaning that just one who is a believer in and follower of Christ. The name Christian identifies us with Him. It means that we have a relationship with Him. To be a Christian is more than moral rules and going to

Church, it is having a vital relationship to Christ that saves us from the wrath of God and equips us to live a life that is pleasing to Him. It has two facets, first I am in Him and secondly, He is in me. Galatians 2:20 (AV)

²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

This verse is really the expression of what it means to be a Christian. “I am crucified with Christ.” Most Christians understand what this means. When Christ was dying on the cross, He was paying for my sins. Positionally. I died with Him. All my guilt (sin debt) was payed for at that time. When Christ cried out on the cross, “It is finished”. He was speaking of the work of redemption. We are saved from the wrath of God by the crucifixion of Christ. This is the heart of the good news of the Christian faith, “Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures...” 1Co. 15:3.)

1 John 4:10 (AV)

¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Propitiation means payment. We are saved by placing our faith in the finished work of Christ. We are saved by being “in Christ”. Romans 6:3 (AV)

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were
(See “All I Need” Page 8)

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(“All I Need from Page 7)

baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:6 (AV)

⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Baptism here is not water baptism, it is the work of God placing the believing sinner into Christ. When you believe in Christ you are placed in Him. This is what saves you, the fact that you are in Christ. Most Christian get that, the fact that they are saved from the penalty of sin by believing the gospel and trusting Christ atonement, but they have the idea that to live the Christian life them must do things. Here is the truth though, you cannot live the Christian life! Christ must live it through you. Look again at Galatians 2:20. ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Note what Paul is saying, I was crucified with Christ, I (the old sinful man) died with Him, but he goes on to say, “nevertheless I live”. It is no longer my life though, “but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now lived in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Here is what it means to be a Christian then, it means that Jesus is all I need.

His death saves me. Me in Christ is what saves me. His resurrected life is what enables me to live a life pleasing to God. I cannot do it, but Christ in me living His life through me can. Christ is all I need, me in Him and Him in me.

That is what it means to be a Christian.



<https://vcakokomo.com/contact>

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