**SERMON SHEET 7/07/24**

**The Nearness of the Gospel: United with Jesus**

**Text: Galatians 2:20, 3:1**

***The believer is supernaturally united to Christ crucified and resurrected. This defines the believer’s identity and transforms his or her life.***

1. **Context in Galatia (Galatians 3:1)** 
   1. “Bewitched”: false teaching plaguing the church and threatening believers’ faith.
   2. Paul’s preaching in Galatia (Galatians 3:1): Christ portrayed as crucified

Implications for a Theology of Preaching

1. **United with Christ in His Death and Life (Galatians 2:20)**
   1. God’s love and action for me.
   2. God’s action of uniting me with Christ’s crucifixion.
   3. God’s action of uniting me to the life of Christ.
2. **Implications** 
   1. Faith: “Life I live in the flesh *I live* *by faith* in the son of God...”
   2. Identity of the Christian and union with Christ
   3. Freedom and fruit (Galatians 5:1, 22–23)

**QUOTES**

1. **John Calvin**

* *The meaning therefore is, that Paul [preached] concerning Christ in such a manner as if Christ had been shown… ‘crucified among them.’ Such a representation was not made by any eloquence, or by ‘enticing words of man's wisdom,’ but by the power of the Spirit.*
* *How do we receive those benefits which the Father bestowed on his only-begotten Son—not for Christ’s own private use, but that he might enrich poor and needy men? We must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us.*

1. **Andrew Peterson**

*I saw the desert wind  
Tear across the wilderness  
I felt it blowing off the page  
The teacher told me, "Son  
Always remember this"  
And I have always been afraid.*

*I read about the God of Moses  
Roaring in the holy cloud  
It shook my bedroom window panes  
I did not understand then  
I do not understand now*

1. **Charles Spurgeon**

*Paul says that Christ was set forth crucified visibly among them… He says that he had set forth Christ with such vividness— he had word painted so thoroughly well, he had spoken so plainly and so simply, that they seemed to say, “We see it; Christ in our stead, Christ bleeding for our sin.” They seemed to see him as if he were before them in their midst. My dear friends, do not say, “Christ died on Calvary. That is thousands of miles off.” I know that he did, but… He loved you, and gave himself for you. Let him be to you as though he were crucified [here], and as though his cross were in the middle of this tabernacle [congregation]. “Oh, but he died nineteen hundred years ago.” I know that he did, but the efficacy of his death [reaches] to-day. “He died unto sin once”: and that once pours the splendor [through] the ages, and the thing for you to do is to feel as if you saw him dying now, on the tree now you standing immediately at the foot of the cross, and looking up, and — seeing him looking down from off that cross and saying, “I did all this for thee.” Cannot you ask the Lord to make it as vivid as that to you?*

1. **Martin Luther**

* *Who is this "me"? I, wretched and damnable sinner, dearly beloved of the Son of God… why should the Son of God have given Himself for me? There was nothing else big and good enough, so it was necessary for the Son of God to be delivered for me. This He did out of His great love for me, for the Apostle says, "Who loved me."*
* *For Christ is Joy and Sweetness to a broken heart. Christ is a Lover of poor sinners, and such a Lover that He gave Himself for us. Read the words "me" and "for me" with great emphasis. Print this "me" with capital letters in your heart, and do not ever doubt that you belong to the number of those who are meant by this "me." Christ did not only love Peter and Paul. The same love He felt for them He feels for us. If we cannot deny that we are sinners, we cannot deny that Christ died for our sins.”*
* *Christ looks at me and says: "I am that big sinner. His sins and his death are mine, because he is joined to me, and I to him.”*