

House Group Notes

11th July 2017



Ichthus Values, Characteristics & Distinctives Session 17:

Distinctives: What Makes Ichthus Unique

Part 2 of 7: Christocentric

Introduction

At the beginning of May we looked at what it means to have a Christocentric Theology and why that is important. Christocentric Christianity was so important at the start of Ichthus that it became one of their 7 distinctives, that's not to say others don't believe it, but not everyone emphasises it's importance enough!! We're going to have another quick look at this topic again today.

Remember, Christocentric is a bit of a made up Christian word, but it is defined by an online dictionary as:

"Having Christ as its centre"

This is something that is so important to do. Jesus Christ should be at the centre of everything we do and he can be found throughout the bible.

Read John 1:1-5 & 14-18

The word became flesh and dwelt among us. This is Jesus, the word that has become flesh. Jesus is the fulfilment of the word and law of God and we should look at the Old Testament with Jesus in view and at the centre of it all.

Prophetic, Symbolic and Typological

There are three main ways Jesus can be found in the Old Testament: Prophetic, Symbolic and Typological. There may be more, but these categories seem good to Caz and Joel!!

1. **Prophetic:**

Direct words from God that promise that Jesus will come and speak about what he will do and say. Most commonly found in the writings of the Old Testament prophets.

2. **Symbolic:**

Specific things or practices that the Lord gave to His people to be a symbol of what was to come and what Jesus was to accomplish. These can often be found in the Old Testament Law and imagery that was used in the temple.

3. **Typological:**

An event or a person that can be seen as a type of Christ/Jesus. These can be found throughout the bible in all sorts of characters and stories.

Prophetic - Read Isaiah 53

This is a prophecy that was given by a man called Isaiah about Jesus' life. Isaiah wrote these things several hundred years before Jesus was born and Isaiah was predicting things Jesus would do.

Questions:

- In what ways does this talk about Jesus?

- Can you think of anything that happens in Jesus' life that this passage in Isaiah is talking about?
- Where does this happen in the New Testament?
- Why do you think this is important?

Symbolic - Read Leviticus 16:1-22

This law about the goat and scapegoat was given to Moses from God roughly 2,000 years before Jesus was born. The term scapegoat is used by many today to mean that something innocent being used to take the blame for someone else so that they avoid any consequences. Its origin is from here in the bible.

Leader: Things to think about/draw out:

- Aaron washing a bit like baptism
- Goat dying as a sacrifice to please God
- Scapegoat taking sins away in the wilderness that are lost forever
- Blood shed, removes impurities/sin
- Allows access to God's presence

Questions:

- What is the purpose of the goat and scapegoat?
- In what ways is this symbolic of Jesus?
- Any other thoughts or pictures of Jesus?

Typological - Read Genesis 6:11-8:22

Noah's ark is an incredibly famous story and virtually every culture in the world has some sort of flood based "myth". This story is found right near the beginning of the bible and it is not long after the creation story.

Leader: Things to think about/draw out:

- The ark (made of wood) saving Noah and Jesus dying on the wooden cross
- The word for "pitch" = atonement
- Flood and baptism – Death bringing new life
- Sin of the people and creation is saved/redeemed too through Jesus
- 40 days
- The Lord promising never to do a flood again and Jesus being a once for all sacrifice
- Dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (poured out after the ascension)

Questions:

- Are there any obvious parallels with Jesus?
- In what ways is the ark and/or Noah a type of Jesus?
- Any other thoughts?

Pray to finish

- For the illumination of the bible to always see Jesus in everything
- That we keep Jesus at the centre of everything we do and say