

Paul's Philosophy of Life

2 Corinthians 4:1-5



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- **2 Corinthians 4:5, "For we *preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus sake.*"**
- **To be successful in the eyes of God**
 - **“Preach not ourselves”**
 - **“Preach Christ Jesus as Lord”**
 - **“Servants of for Jesus sake”**

**Follow Paul's philosophy and
God's blessings will fall upon us!**

“Preach Not Ourselves”

- **Man’s greatest Challenge (preacher too)**
 - Fight against Ambition, Jealousy, PRIDE
 - Satan seeks to stir up the “ME” within us
- **Must continually fight sinful condition**
 - **1 Peter 5:8-9**, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”*



“Preach Not Ourselves”

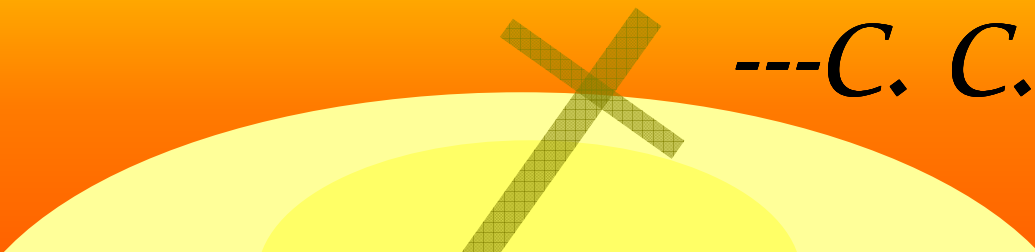
How Paul Fought Against Exalting Self!

1. Remembered self as, “*crucified Christ*”
 - Galatians 2:20
2. Relied on God’s wisdom/talent, not own
 - 1 Corinthians 2:2-5
3. Compared self to God’s will, not man’s
 - 2 Corinthians 10:12
4. Sought God’s approval, not man’s
 - 2 Corinthians 10:17-18
5. Refused to lord over his brethren
 - 2 Corinthians 1:24

“Preach Not Ourselves”

*“Christian messengers
can never think too
highly of his prince,
or too humbly of
himself!”*

---C. C. Colton



Preach “Christ Jesus as Lord”

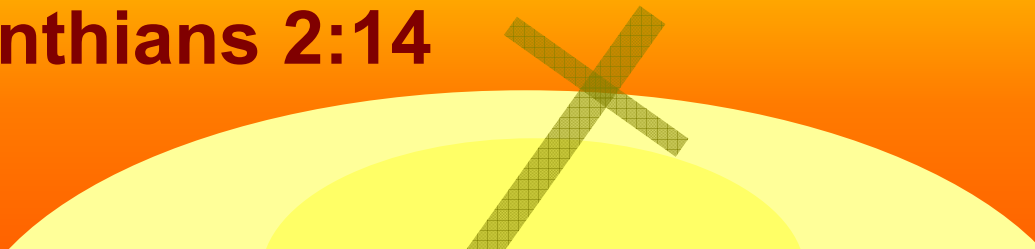
Lordship of Jesus, central theme of Bible

- Only those confessing Jesus can be saved
 - **Romans 10:9**, *“we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*
- Great responsibility for all
 - **Romans 10:17**, *“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God*
 - **Acts 8:30-31**, Phillip & Eunuch, *“Understandest thou what thou readeest?... How can I unless someone should guide me?”*

Preach “Christ Jesus as Lord”

Key concepts to Paul’s work

1. Saw preaching as a stewardship from God
 - 1 Corinthians 9:16-17
2. Disciplined self to serve as God’s servant
 - 1 Corinthians 9:26-27
3. Sought never to corrupt God’s word
 - 2 Corinthians 2:17
4. Confident of triumph in the Lord’s work
 - 2 Corinthians 2:14



Be “Servants for Christ’s Sake”

Most difficult of the three points

1. “Preach not ourselves”
2. “*Preach Christ Jesus as Lord*”
3. Be “*Servants for Christ’s sake*”

Pride makes it difficult to be humble

- *Easy when it’s convenient*
- *Easy when it doesn’t conflict with values*
- *Easy when others can praise us*

What About The Rest of The Time?

Be “Servants for Christ’s Sake”

As a servant for Christ, Paul...

- 1. Was honored to take the Gospel to all**
 - 2 Corinthians 4:7**
- 2. Bore the life of Jesus in his flesh**
 - 2 Corinthians 4:10**
- 3. Was thankful for saints, even in troubled congregations**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:2-4**
- 4. Was flexible/adaptive in saving souls**
 - 1 Corinthians 9:22-23**

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