Preaching Christ

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Introduction:
1. Widespread call for preaching Christ:
   a. Spurgeon, “Preach Christ, always and everywhere. He is the whole gospel. His person, offices, and work must be our one great, all-comprehending theme” (*Lectures to My Students*, p. 79).
   b. Stewart, “If we are not determined that in every sermon Christ is to be preached, it were better that we should resign our commission forthwith and seek some other vocation” (*Heralds of God*, p. 54 cited in *Preaching Christ from the Old Testament*, p. 2).
   c. Adams, “Preach Christ in all the Scriptures: He is the subject matter of the whole Bible. He is there. Until you have found Him in your preaching portion, you are not ready to preach” (*Preaching with Purpose*, p. 152).
2. Contemporary emphasis, proper, on the Cross and on Christ.

I. Biblical Basis for Christocentric Preaching

A. NT Texts about Christ in the OT, John 5:36; Luke 24:27, 44-46

B. NT Texts about our Preaching, 2 Cor 4:5; Col 1:28; 1 Cor 2:2; Acts 8:4-5, 35; 18:5

II. Tensions regarding Christocentric Preaching

A. Hermeneutical Issues

   1. Grammatical Principle—*it means what it says*

   2. Historical Principle—*it never means what it never meant*

    B. Jack-in-the-Box Approach

    C. Anti-Moralism Crusade
III. Principles and Practice of Christocentric Preaching

A. Principles

1. God’s providential control of OT history was intended for our edification, cf. 1 Cor 10:6, 11.

2. The OT Scriptures were written for our instruction, Rom 15:4

3. The full profitability of Scripture must guide our preaching, 2 Tim 3:16-17

4. The OT can’t be read properly apart from Christ, 2 Cor 3:12-18

5. All parts of the OT point to Christ, but that doesn’t mean every “verse” of the OT does, Luke 24:44

6. No direct line to Christ need be drawn in every use of the OT, e.g., 1 Cor 9 regarding oxen.

7. All Christian obedience must be grounded in the gospel of Christ, Rom 12:1.

B. Practices

1. Make sure to preach your text from it within the redemptive storyline.

2. Highlight, when proper, the relationship between shadow and substance, i.e., that OT foreshadows Christ.

3. Show how God’s dealings with all people (particularly Israel) will be culminated in Christ.

4. Make sure to root imperatives in the indicatives.