

What was the point of the message on Sunday? If for some reason you missed it,

## ***Here's the Point ...***

### ***"All of Life is to the Praise of God in Christ"***

#### ***Because ...***

#### ***1. Only Christ Brings True Freedom***

In the mind of the world, freedom is found in being your own master, in being the captain of your own soul. This thinking can be summed up in the song "My Way" made famous by Frank Sinatra - "I planned each charted course, each careful step along the byway, and more, much more than this, I did it my way." But this is not freedom at all because we are a cruel master. When we succeed, we become prideful. When we fail, we beat ourselves up. But the Christian understands that true freedom is not in doing things, "my way" but doing things "God's way." Paul writes, "In Him we have redemption through His blood..." The word redemption always carries with it the idea of a prisoner and a price. In Christ, we have been set free from being a spiritual prisoner under a) the penalty of sin, b) the power of sin, and c) the guilt of sin. True freedom is not found in being your own master but in serving the right Master. Yet, this freedom was not free. True freedom never is. Our freedom came at the price of Christ's blood poured out for us at the cross.

#### ***2. Only Christ Brings True Forgiveness***

Was Christ's death on the cross necessary for man to receive forgiveness? You will say, "of course." But say I ask you, "Well, can other people from other religions pray to God and receive forgiveness for their sins apart from Christ?" Your answer to that question reveals if you really believe and understand the necessary price of Jesus' life that was given at Calvary to provide forgiveness. Because true forgiveness always involves a cost. It always involves a debt that must be absorbed. It requires the one who is offering the forgiveness to absorb the cost. If I let you borrow my phone and you lose it, and I say, "Its okay. I forgive you; just buy me a new one." I may say that I've forgiven you, but I haven't truly offered forgiveness because I'm not willing to absorb the debt of what was lost. At the cross, Jesus absorbs the debt and cost of death for our sins against God. Therefore, it is only through His blood and His death in our place that one finds true forgiveness from God. All of this was "... according to the riches of His Grace" (v.7b). Our sin does not break the bank of God's grace. Our Father is wealthy in what we need the most, which is His undeserved and unmerited grace and mercy.

#### ***3. Only Christ Brings True Fulfillment***

In the mid 1500's, Nicolaus Copernicus published his work that would revolutionize how men viewed the world. Copernicus understood that the earth is not the center of the universe. The sun is. Everything doesn't revolve around us. Everything revolves around the sun. In a similar way, Paul points out in Eph. 1:8-10, that everything revolves around the Son of God. That has been God's plan from before time, to reunite everything under the Lordship and Headship of Christ that "... in all things Christ would be preeminent" (Col.1:18). Life makes sense only when we align with God's plan and recognize that we are not the center of it all. The world doesn't revolve around us and our glory, but Christ and His glory. When we die to being the center of all things and put ourselves, our families, our work, our relationships, our thinking, etc. under the Lordship of Christ, then we find that these things begin to operate the way that they should to bring true fulfillment and glory to God.