

OCCUPATION WITH JESUS CHRIST

PROBLEM SOLVING DEVICE #10

Let me ask you a question, “Why is it important to be occupied with Christ?”

Here’s an answer for you. How can you represent someone that you don't even know? That's the question.

I can tell you we are not here because of a desire for ritual. We’re not here because of a desire for technical information that makes us superior to other people. We're here because we love our Savior Jesus Christ. We want to be intimately acquainted with Him. That's what our true motivation is about, our personal love for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here are some thoughts for you:

Jesus Christ keeps you alive every day. You are alive today compliments of the grace of Jesus Christ as per Colossians 1:16 and 17. Here's what it says,

“For by Him were all things created, things that are in heaven, things that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers. All things were created by Him and for Him and He is before all things, and by Him you exist.”

We’re all alive today, compliments of the grace of God. We’re able to sit in these chairs without floating up to the ceiling because of gravity, that’s compliments of the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All categories of social, economic and political power exist only for one reason and that's to fulfill the ultimate purpose of Jesus Christ and they exist only so long as they are viable to His wishes and His plans. That’s why it's important that we understand who it is we worship.

When is He going to stop holding it all together?

Well the Bible says in 2 Peter 3:11, **“Seeing then that all of these things shall be dissolved, what manner a person should we be with holy living and godliness.”**

This is why it's important that we understand who He is and why we are here. We have been mandated to **“holy living and godliness”**.

Holy living is utilizing your two power options, the filling of the Holy Spirit (PSD #2) plus operation Z in your life. These are your two power options in your life that our Pastor has taught us for years. When the Bible talks about holy living, it's talking about utilizing your three spiritual skills. Not only the filling of the Holy Spirit (PSD #2), not only operation Z but learning those 10 problem-solving devices that are critical in your life, culminating with occupation with Christ (PSD #10).

To advance to this level of the adult spiritual life begins with realization of one's personal sense of destiny (PSD#6) and the status of spiritual self-esteem; cognitive self-confidence that enable a believer to make his own doctrinal application to life without being influenced by the opinions, philosophies, and ideologies of the devil's world. Once you reach spiritual maturity, where you will get evidence testing and give maximum glorification of God. Occupation with Christ is the place where the believer glorifies Christ by making maximum application of His Word to life and circumstances.

Why is it important? When He decides to quit holding it together, once He makes a decision, that's it. When all these things are dissolved and you're going to have an opportunity to pass in review. When the Lord says, **“Well done my good and faithful servant,”** That's why we're here. We love Jesus Christ, we love His Word, and we love what He has given to us.

We're here to reach our two tactical objectives - **our personal sense of destiny and spiritual maturity in our life**. We become occupied with Christ and we reach **“pleroma”** status in our life which is what we're supposed to do. But all of this motivation comes from one thing. That is your personal love for Jesus Christ your **motivational virtue**.

Turn in your Bible to Philippians 3:7. Let's see what Paul has to say and he describes his new value system. He had a change of his values. **“The things that were gain for me, my many**

accomplishments,” he said, **“I now count as loss for Jesus Christ.”** What things were gain, I now count as loss. The word **“zemia”** means this: I now count these things as damaged or detriment to my life.

“I count it all loss, except for Christ.” He laid aside all of his natural claims to wealth and status and he said I only want to get fame in one thing and that is my relationship to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Philippians 3:8, the most important thing in Paul's life, **“I count all things but loss except for the excellency, the superior higher knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.”** The most important thing that Paul could state in his life at that time was to know who and what Jesus Christ was, to know exactly what Jesus Christ had done for him. Here's a principle for you:

Knowing Jesus Christ, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, is the greatest thing you'll ever accomplish in your life.

If you are a Christian who hasn't reached maturity, all of these material things are nothing but a distraction to you. Paul said, **“I've learned that whatever state I'm in to be content, to be happy it doesn't make any difference if I have a little or I have a lot.”**

You know what gives you the capacity? Romans 5:3 says suffering gives you capacity because it gets it all down to the one and only thing you need in your life to exist and it is Jesus Christ.

“Therefore” he said, **“I count all things but loss except for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ my Lord.”**

Then he said, **“For whom I have suffered the loss of all things and I do count them but (“skubala”) (dung, excrement) so that I may (“kerdaino”) (gain favor or fellowship) with Christ.”** That's what he's saying, that I may appropriate Christ to myself, that I may become Christ like.

Verse 9, **“That I may be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is of the law.”**

You know what that is, **-R** and you know what God has, **+R**. That's why the Bible says, **“there are none that are righteous, not even one”**.

You will not stand before God and pass the evaluation with **-R**. The only way you get **+R**, is with what the Bible says,

“He that knew no sin was made sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him.”

On the cross Jesus Christ took your sin and He was judged in your place, and He gave you His righteousness. That's why your sins are not an issue. That's why the only issue in your salvation is what think ye of Christ?

“So that I may be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that righteousness which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

Verse 10, **“That I may know Him.”**

This is what will give you the ability to do what God has laid out for you. It is not your human energy, it's not your human strength, it's the dynamic power of God the Holy Spirit in your life. It's the same power that resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead.

“That I may know the power of His resurrection and I may know the fellowship of His sufferings.”

There's going to come a time in your life when you're going to go through evidence testing and when you have evidence testing you're going to need the motivation of your personal love for Jesus Christ or you're going to quit your advance. You'll say, “I can't take it anymore, I quit.” Our Lord Jesus Christ never quit in 33 years. Will you? If you don't understand this, you will. That's why the writer said, don't be weary, don't give up, don't lose heart, don't lose faith.

What does it mean to be occupied with Christ? What was Paul telling us here? He's telling us that the most important thing in his life is Jesus Christ. Everything else that he has is not important. That he suffered the loss of everything except for the excellency of knowing Jesus Christ. That he suffered loss because of this and indeed he did.

Occupation with Christ is your personal love for the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what it is and because of the metabolized doctrine

circulating in your stream of consciousness, that's what gives it to you.

That's why 1 Peter 1:8 says, **“and though you have not seen Him, you love Him** You haven't seen Him, but you love Him. Listen to Peter, **“and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him.”**

This is the principle of loving the absent Christ right here stated by Peter:

1 Peter 1:8: **“And even though you have not seen Jesus Christ, you keep on loving Him Who presently you do not see, yet you constantly keep on rejoicing with happiness inexpressible and full of glory.”**

You cannot love a person you do not know. Knowledge of the Lord is only possible by learning about Him from divine revelation through Scripture.

How do you love someone and believe in someone whom you've never seen nor met? You certainly can meet Him through faith. That's why Christianity is not a religion, it's a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. You can meet the risen Savior, the King of kings and the Lord of lords by faith.

Now Peter says, **“You rejoice with inexpressible happiness, full of glory.”**

The mystery doctrine of the church age is defined as **“the thinking with the mind of Christ”** in 1 Corinthians 2:16. It says, look we have it, it's ours.

And Paul said in Romans 12:2, **“Don't think of yourself in terms of arrogance but think in terms of sanity as God has assigned to each one of us the standard of thinking from His Word.”**

What is the standard of thinking that we are to think? It's Philippians 2:5, **“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus.”**

Learn to think like He thought. It is His volitional response to His Father's plan; it is part of your soul. Then as you come to understand the Word of God through consistent teaching by qualified men that

understand His Word, not through emotionalism, not through some system of legalistic hoops that you jump through. But as you come to understand the mind of Christ and assimilate the mind of Christ in your life by using your volition to come to Bible Class. You didn't know that's what you were doing, as we learn the mind of Christ, then we become occupied with Jesus Christ. You can't love Jesus until you know how He thinks because He's invisible.

You don't see Him right now, but you still love Him. You can't love Him until you know how He thinks and that's why the perception of the metabolization of the mystery doctrine of the church is how you come to know Him personally.

That's why occupation with Christ is contrasted to occupation with people. In 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 we see the principle that isolates one's focus on Christ and not on circumstances, systems, or people. The benefit is confidence in one's position in Christ which is confirmed by the fact He died and rose again so that we might have eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15: **“We have discerned that One died for all for we are constantly motivated (“*sunecho*”): (to be completely dominated by occupation with Him) by the Love of Christ;**

Vs.15: **and He died for all in order that they which live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and rose again for their benefit.”**

It is not people that make you happy. It is not circumstances that make you happy. It is your occupation with Jesus Christ that gives you stability. It is your occupation with Jesus Christ that gives you motivation and momentum in your life. Those who have occupation with Christ find that it produces true motivation in life. That's why it's important.

Occupation with Christ is the believer's major problem-solving device.

Occupation with Christ is personal love for the Lord expressed by the mature believer. It is the capacity to love an absent Savior made

possible by one's maximum knowledge of Him acquired through spiritual growth.

Knowledge that Christ resides in us not only motivates the believer to grow in grace it also provides the source of his momentum to continue the advance toward the objective of spiritual maturity.

That's why you have to refocus on the whole concept of why you're here to start with. It's not the technical mechanics of the Christian life that make you so great. It's your personal love for Jesus Christ.

Occupation with Christ results in the mental attitude of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 12 says, **"Don't faint, in your mind. Don't lose courage in your soul."** Philippians 3 Christ was never pushy. He was never rude. And that should be your lifestyle.

Occupation with Christ leads to appreciation and understanding of who and what He is.

He reconciled you. When you're occupied with Christ you can appreciate that. Romans 5:10, **"We were reconciled to God by the death of His Son Jesus Christ."** He brought us into harmony with God. He settled the difference between God and us. We didn't earn it. We didn't deserve it. Why did He do it? Why did Jesus Christ do that? In case you haven't figured it out yet, because He loved you.

Occupation with Christ is the expression of personal love for Him which can only be developed by learning about Him from intensive study of Scripture: **"If you love me, keep My commandments."** (John14:15)

He reconciled us, and secondly, He redeemed us. Galatians 3:13, **"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law."**

He will reward you. Matthew 16:27, **"For the Son of Man shall come in glory of His Father with His angels, and then He shall reward every man according to his production."**

He may reject you. **"Not everyone who says the name Lord, shall enter the kingdom of God, only he that does the will of My Father."** What is the will of the Father? Going to heaven is the will of the Father. Can you really know it for sure? Absolutely. John 6:40 Jesus said, **"This is the will of the One that sent Me. That you believe in Me whom You have sent."** It is the will of God that you believe in Jesus Christ.

You say, "Well I went to church. I was there, I showed up" and guess what you can still be lost, die, and go to hell. Just showing up and being in the presence of truth doesn't mean you believe truth. See a lot of people today are here but they're really not interested in the truth. Do you come for show, not for application?

The Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, **"It's appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgment."** You will be evaluated based on one or two things. Is your name in the book of life? How does it get there? When you are born it's put there. If you die without Christ, you die the first death, and your name is erased from the book of life. The Bible says the second evaluation is the books (plural) of works, production, and that's where people will chime in and say, "did we not do this, did we not do that?" And Jesus said, **"Look, I never knew you."** He will reject you unless you believe in Him alone.

Faith alone in Christ alone and that's why it's taught here over and over again it's faith alone, not faith plus anything. This is not faith plus baptism. And Paul said, **"I thank God He did not send me to baptize anybody except Crispus and Gaius and the household of Stephanas."** And he said if there are any others, I don't even know who they are. Then in Romans 1:16 he said, **"The power of God unto salvation is the gospel of Jesus Christ and it is to the Jew first and then unto the Gentile."**

It's not baptism, it's the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's not works, it's the gospel of Jesus Christ. When the unbeliever listens to the gospel and hears an accurate presentation. God the Holy Spirit makes that information lucid, comprehensible, and understandable. Believe in Christ results in eternal life; rejection of Him results in eternal condemnation. You reject the gospel; Jesus Christ will reject you.

Listen: Knowledge that Christ resides in us not only motivates the believer to grow in grace it also provides the source of his momentum to continue the advance toward the objective of spiritual maturity.

1 John 3:23-24: “This is God’s mandate, that we believe in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, and that we unconditionally love each other just as He commanded us.

Vs.24: And the one who executes his commandments keeps residing in association with them (status quo spirituality inside the divine dynasphere) and He (Christ) resides (indwells) in him. By means of this (living the operational spiritual life) we have come to know that He (Christ) resides (indwells) in us (knowledge acquired through spiritual growth) by means of the Holy Spirit (mentorship in the divine dynasphere) whom He (Christ) has given to us (at salvation).”

The indwelling of Christ is unfelt by the believer. It is through Bible study and analysis of passages such as 1 John 3:23 and 24, that the believer who consistently functions in the grace system of perception comes to learn of His indwelling.

As the indwelling of the Father provides motivation and the indwelling of Christ provides momentum, the believer advances to the level of spiritual maturity where occupation with Christ becomes the ultimate problem-solving device.

Jesus Christ intercedes for you. The Bible says in Hebrews 7:25, **“He lives to make intercession for us every day.”** He's at the right hand of the Father and He's interceding for us right now. He's praying for us now.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us, the Bible says, **“in prayers that couldn't even be uttered or mentioned.”** Sometimes we don't know what to pray for as we should. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

Did you know the Bible says that Jesus Christ strengthens us? Some of you are going to face circumstances and situations in your life that look insurmountable. They look like you can't overcome them. You're going to figure out what Paul figured out. He said look, **“I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength.”**

Where did the strength come from? My relationship with Jesus Christ. It is no longer I, but it is Christ in me.

Your personal love for the Lord Jesus Christ motivates you to use impersonal love in the life of other people, to fulfill your destiny as a child of God, and to be faithful until the end. He strengthens us and He loves us. Don't ever forget that. Jesus Christ loves you and that's why in John 15:9 He said, **“As the Father has loved Me, so I love you.”** Did you know that?

Did you know Jesus Christ wrote a love letter to you? Here it is: **“I love you”** and the rest of that verse says, **“Continue in My love.”**

The motivation for our Lord and Savior to go to the cross was His love for you, His impersonal love for you. **“God so loved the world,”** there it is, **“that He gave His only begotten Son”**. He used the faith rest drill to the max, all the way to the cross, all the way to death. He never doubted, always trusted. He said, **“Father let this cup pass from Me, but not My will, Thy will be done.”** He was willing to fulfill His destiny for the joy that was set before Him and endured the cross because He loved you. He could have never done it had He not loved His Father. You see His personal love for His Father motivated Him to love you with impersonal love. **“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”**

The divine mandate regarding Jesus Christ is found in 1 Peter 3:15a, where Peter says, **“Sanctify (as a top priority) the Lord Jesus Christ in your hearts (kardia).”**

Have you made doctrine priority number one? Is your relationship with Jesus Christ the momentum and the motivation in your life that leads you to maximum glorification of God? If there's any other reason, it won't sustain you. If there's any other reason, it'll never happen in your life. It is only your personal love for God through Jesus Christ that gives you the sticking power.

Occupation with Christ includes sharing the happiness of God so that you're prepared to meet and face any exigency in your life, all circumstances. As long as God keeps you here, you're going to have a most fantastic journey. You may wonder sometimes what God is

doing and you may not be able to figure it out, but you can bet on this, His plan goes on and on and on.

Occupation with Christ doesn't happen overnight as the 10th problem-solving device. You are not going to wake up one morning and say I'm occupied with Christ." It doesn't happen that way.

Ephesians 3:19 says, **“and come to know the love of Christ which is beyond so that you may be filled (or reach pleroma status) filled with the fullness of God.”** We know from 2 Corinthians 5:14: **“The love of Christ keeps on motivating us...”**

Love for Jesus Christ includes confidence in not only His commandments but also the problem-solving devices that accompany one's ascent to the high ground. So as we move through those problem-solving devices, as we learn rebound, as you move through the filling of the Holy Spirit, as you move through the faith rest drill, and then through grace orientation, and doctrinal orientation, and reach that door of a personal sense of destiny - it is so great because once you go through the door, the personal sense of destiny, this is when you finally leave your agenda behind. This is when you finally get on God's agenda. You finally get on the same page with Jesus Christ. You shut your book and open His book and that's where we move into personal love for God and impersonal love for others.

Then we move into sharing the happiness of God +H and occupation with Christ as our final problem-solving device. This is the problem-solving device we are talking about right here.

If you get occupied with the details of life; you will get off track. Without occupation with Christ you will only have a life of frustration and only have a life of instability because you'll always have unrealistic expectations.

You will see yourself as you think you are and there's nothing more pitiful than someone who doesn't see themselves as they really are. When you look into the Word of God, O man, this one shows you what you really are. To be able to see yourself as you really are, it takes some humility.

Sometimes God has to use enforced humility to wake you up. Sometimes enforced humility is designed by God to wake you up because people that have unrealistic expectations and have this unrealistic self-image that creates it, never see their own wrong because of the arrogance. They always justify why they're right. They get self-deceived or absorbed with self and it always, always leads to self-destruction. Yes, you're in the top circle. Yes, you have a relationship with God the Father through faith in Jesus Christ. But you might not be in fellowship. You might have used your volition to go negative to God and you might have gotten under control of your sin nature and while you're under control of your sin nature, you might not have recovered. The key is rebound. Once you find the key to rebound, you can find your way out of arrogance. If you don't, you will spend the rest of your arrogant self-righteous person who is miserable.

Sometimes frustration and instability in your church will cause you to stop coming. You'll look for another church or just stop coming I don't care who you are you need to be taught the truth and preferably face-to-face.

From occupation with Christ you learn to avoid the great hazards in the Christian life: getting your eyes on yourself, getting your eyes on people, or getting your eyes on things. See if you get your eyes on yourself, you're going to get into arrogance. If you get your eyes on people, then you're going to get frustrated because they are going to let you down. You are going to see that people are no damn good. That's why Jeremiah says, **“Cursed is man that trusts in man.”** We're alive today compliments of the grace of God. Don't put your eyes on others. Don't put your eyes on yourself. Don't put your eyes on Joe. Put your eyes on Jesus Christ, the perfecter and the finisher of our faith. Don't put your eyes on things or you'll get envious and jealous. The Bible says in Proverbs 16:19, **“It is better to have humility in your spirit with the lowly than to divide the spoils with the arrogant.”**

Occupation with Christ will change your mental attitude about yourself so that you can change your attitude about other people. You should never have a list of enemies in your Christian walk, unless they're enemies of the cross, unless they're believers that have become enemies of the cross, people like that are the gangrene that

Paul mentioned in 2 Timothy 2. But even then, personal hatred is not allowed in the plan of God for anybody. That's why personal love for Lord Jesus Christ gives us the motivational virtue to have impersonal love for others.

So, occupation with Christ changes your mental attitude about yourself so that you can change your attitude about others and so that you can understand Psalms 118:9, **“It's better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in any man.”** Better to take refuge in who? The Lord Jesus Christ than to trust in any man. The more you're occupied with yourself then the less you're occupied with Jesus Christ. You'll have unrealistic demands. You'll get into revenge motivation. That's what's so sad you won't even recognize it. People will treat you with kindness and courtesy and deference but behind your back they'll say, “I'm staying clear of them.” It happens all the time in local churches wrong motivation and wrong priorities create turmoil in a local church.

Occupation with Christ results in God emphasis taking precedence over people emphasis thereby eliminating human viewpoint. This is replaced by an ever-advancing perspective of reality founded on divine viewpoint.

Don't depend on other people for your encouragement or your motivation. That's not occupation with Christ. That's not why you're faithful to attend Bible class. That's not why you're faithful to make the application of the Word of God in your life.

The mature Christian does not seek encouragement from or dependence on people but from dependence on God. Occupation with Christ does not depend on emotionalism or any other human work but rather on perception on the Word of God and its application.

Most believers place their confidence in circumstances, other people, or human concepts of security. But this is the devil's world. Lucifer takes every opportunity to sell you a bill of goods that **“cosmos diabolicus”** can provide true happiness. **DO NOT BUY IT!**

But you are faithful because you love Him. Because the more you depend on people or circumstances to make you happy, the more you will turn away from Bible doctrine.

Occupation with Christ is described as a personal love for God the Son, which results in the perception, the metabolization and the application of the Word of God in your life. That's why Paul wrote it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:14-17. **“For the love of Christ (don't miss it) for the love of Christ keeps on motivating us and we have reached the conclusion that since One died as a substitute for all, therefore all have died (that's spiritual death at birth) and furthermore He, Jesus Christ died as a substitute for all, in order that those who live shall no longer live to themselves, but live for Him who died and was resurrected.”**

There are three doctrines that orient the believer to the cosmic environment in which he functions and the divine assets available to successfully navigate within it: The Angelic Conflict, the Doctrine of Dispensations, and the Doctrine of Divine Decrees. Protocol says the right thing has to be done in the right way.

We're in the church age. This is the mystery doctrine of the church and we have been brought into the family of God. It's a phenomenal thing. **“Christ in us the hope of glory.”** So, organize your life around Bible doctrine - organize your thinking around Bible doctrine.

It doesn't necessarily come easy, being occupied with Christ. Concentrate on Christ. **“Let this mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus”**

Philippians 2:5. **“Be concentrating on Jesus (occupation with Christ), the author and perfecter of our faith, who because of the exhibited happiness, He endured the cross (imputation and judgment of our sins), having disregarded the shame (being identified with our sins), and He sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

Galatians 4:19, **“Until Christ be formed in you.”** How much plainer could it be?

What is your priority number one? What is your first love? What is your motivation for all of this? It's your personal love for Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:20 says this, **“According to my earnest expectation and my confidence that in nothing, not one thing shall I ever be ashamed.**

But that with all boldness, as always and so now also Jesus Christ to be magnified in my body whether it is by me living or by me dying; for me living is Christ and dying is profit.”

Is that plain enough? Does this show you where His priorities were? Does this show you Who He was occupied with? Does this show you why the writer of Revelation said get back to your first love? Get back to what motivated you to start with. If you don't know anything about Him, how can you love someone, respect someone, that you don't know anything about? Get into the Word of God and learn about your Savior, your Lord Jesus Christ.

So, you are alive today, for Christ. You live for Christ. You are His personal representative in the angelic conflict. You have the responsibility to take the information that you learn from this pulpit to walk out that door and be a reflector of Jesus Christ in this city, in the state, in this world. This is your responsibility. This eliminates all human viewpoint, this eliminates any other motivation in life except the one and only motivation, your love of Christ.

- 1. Be consistent. Perceive and apply the Word of God consistently.**
- 2. Stay filled with the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. Organize your thinking.**
- 4. Learn the mystery doctrines of the church and you'll understand exactly what God's plan and program is for your life.**

Occupation with Christ thus becomes the ultimate problem-solving device and is mandated in:

Hebrews 12:2: “Be concentrating on Jesus (occupation with Christ), the Founder and perfecter of our faith...”

1 Peter 3:15: “Sanctify (set apart as superior) the Lord Christ in your streams of consciousness...”

Remember being occupied with Christ is having fellowship with Him and the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 2:1: “Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ (and there is), if there is any comfort from love (personal integrity, and there is), if there is any fellowship with the Holy Spirit (and there is), if there are any emotional responses or resultant mercies (and there is);

Vs.2: be filled with My happiness that you might be thinking the same things (divine viewpoint), have the same virtue love, united in soul rapport, concentrating on one objective...”

2 Corinthians 13:14: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”

Philippians 2:5: “...having this thinking in yourself which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Remember occupation with Christ is the soul’ strategy for true happiness regardless of the environment around us.

But the spiritual advance to that rarified level of the spiritual life is a long row to hoe!