

Missing the point

By Pastor Ronald Vote

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As a young Christian in the late 1960s, I attended a camp meeting where the preacher preached on John 3:16. He totally missed the point. God began to call me into the ministry, to go to Bible College so that I might rightly explain the Word of God.

I believe that many pastors and churches today are missing the point or where the real problem lies, that is avoiding any preaching that points to the sinfulness of mankind. Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Likewise, many are missing the only true source of help and hope which is Jesus Christ who was crucified to pay for our sinfulness and rose again to give us eternal life.

Promoting counseling, meetings, or self helps or programs are no substitute for spirit-filled preaching of the cross. I Corinthians 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God."

I know no one or nothing that can change lives, bring forgiveness and lasting peace to the

human heart as Jesus Christ alone can do.

Sin's remedy is found at the cross. Jesus Christ not only died for our sins, He conquered the power of sin. I want to remind you of Jude verse 3, that you should earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

What primary message did the early church teach – is it not the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ? I Corinthians 15:1-4. Verse 3 “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I have also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. And that he was buried and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.”

Therefore, because He is alive, He desires to live His life in and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul summed this reality of what true Christianity really is in Colossians 1:27b “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Because He lives, He alone is all you need to be a part of God's family.

Christian faith is more about relationship than it is about rules. Would you open your heart to Him today? John 1:12. I hope you won't miss the point!