

“CENTERPOINT”

John Tulio

April 19, 2009

AT THE CORE OF OUR JOURNEY IS A PERSON, NOT A RELIGION.

1 Cor. 2:2 *For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. (NASB)*

Phil. 1:21 *To me the only important thing about living is Christ. (NCV)*

Phil. 3:5-9 *I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin – a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. (NLT)*

CONNECTION TO CHRIST MUST BE THE CENTERPOINT OF OUR CHRISTIAN WALK.

John 15:1-3 *“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you.” (NLT)*

WE CAN DO NOTHING WITHOUT A TWO-WAY CONNECTION WITH CHRIST.

John 15:4-5 *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” (NLT)*

The Two-Way Connection With Christ

1. You in Christ

Eph. 1:11-12 *In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. (NRSV)*

2. Christ in You

Col. 1:27 *For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory. (NLT)*

WE MOVE INTO OUR DIVINE DESTINY WHILE CONNECTED TO CHRIST.

John 15:7-8 *“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.” (NLT)*

Psalms 37:4 *Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart’s desires. (NLT)*

THE CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE IS GOD’S WILL AND PLAN FOR US.

Gal. 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (KJV)*

I was put to death on the cross with Christ, and I do not live anymore – it is Christ who lives in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself to save me. (NCV)