

RATIONALE:

After many years of living as Christian, many of us still languish in old ways, sins and bad habits. The reality of what Christ has done for us can be very hazy. We don't see and experience Jesus in the real world. In our every day lives. In every circumstance. Does Jesus make a difference in the way you live your life? Many would say yes! But can the reality of Jesus make a greater impact on your life? Many of us would have to say. "Yes!"

What we see of Jesus is hazy, out of focus. He is not really real.

Our encounter with Jesus is superficial, the reality of Jesus should impact every aspect of our lives. Yet it seemingly does not.

Why do I say this? Because year after year I still see people battling with the same old problems. They want to do things better but somehow their Christianity does not stretch that far.

Eph 4:21-24

21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **22** You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23** to be made new in the attitude of your minds; **24** and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

How does this transition happen.
How do we put off the old man?
How do we change? How does the attitude of the mind become new?
SEE JESUS CLEARLY...

JESUS

We FOCUS on Jesus! See Him clearly. Allow him, ask him to open our eyes that he would reveal himself to us in ways we never could have imagined. As we FOCUS on Jesus, the Word of God should impact our lives as never before. Our Christianity should make a difference. The question, "Who are you Lord?" and "What are you up to in my life?" is paramount.

Jesus is 'making peace through his blood shed on the cross'. This is the work of Jesus in any given circumstance. He is drawing all humanity to himself.

He should make a difference in the way we live. Make 2011 a year of 'action' and a time of change. Make it a turning point in our Christian walk and in our relationship with Jesus. That we can grow as disciples of Jesus and in so doing make a difference for the Kingdom.

WHAT IS OUR THEME!

The theme "FOCUS ON JESUS" can expand into many areas.



We FOCUS on his:

- Divinity
- Humanity
- Resurrection
- Ascension
- Fulfillment of prophesy
- Salvation
- Life and teachings
- The Miracles
- The Parables
- The impact of his life on humanity
- The impact of His life on us

This quotation is taken from the book, "An introduction to theology" by - Gerrit Scott Dawson

"Christ's atoning sacrifice must not be understood in a purely juridical way, (as though Christ's death on the cross was to be interpreted in terms of Christ's suffering the penalty prescribed by the law of God)."

As Colyer says, "If we regard it in a purely juridical way, we are failing adequately to understand Christ's deliverance from the power of sin in our inner being." As Colyer further says, 'this juridical theory of the atonement frees us from the penalty for sin, but the actual root of our alienation and sin in the ontological depths of our corrupt and fallen humanity is left untouched by Christ's atoning sacrifice'.

IN SIMPLE TERMS THIS IS WHAT HE IS SAYING:

We are delivered from the guilt of sin but not from the power of sin. Christ however came to deliver us both from the guilt of sin and from the power of sin in it's lodgement in the human soul. He came to take away our old sinful nature, in order to give us a new nature, his own new, a life of righteousness.

Christ frees us from the guilt of sin, **and** empowers us to change!! All too often the cares of this world and the pride of life, smother the impact of Christ in our lives. As we 'FOCUS ON JESUS' we will experience the impact/power/new life in Jesus.