“The Importance of Spiritual Knowledge”

Edmonton, AB February 21-23, 2014

“Things we should know about Jesus Christ.”

**Interrelatedness of doctrines**

1. Relational God – Trinity or God head: Jn. 1.1 states Jesus is divine
2. Revelation: Jesus is the culmination of divine revelation, Jn. 1.18; Heb. 1.3
3. Creation: All things are created through Christ, Jn. 1.1-3
4. Humanity: Jesus took the nature of man, Jn. 1.14, Phil. 2.6-8

**Jesus is the foundation of Christianity**

1. Jesus is the historical beginning point of Christianity, Lk. 1.1-4. Christianity is not a set of ideas but it is based on the life, death, resurrection, ascension, and return of Jesus Christ, 1 Cor. 15.1-11.
2. Jesus reveals God the Father, Jn. 1.18; 14.8-9.
3. Jesus is the bearer of salvation, Acts 4.8-12; 15.11.
   1. Jesus reverses the curse:
      1. Theologically: Jn. 17.20-21; Rm. 3.21-25
      2. Personally/psychologically: Mk. 5.25-34
      3. Socially: Mk. 5.15; Eph. 2.11-22
      4. Ecologically: Rm. 8.18-21
4. Jesus defines the shape/direction/expectation of the redeemed life, Rm. 8.29; 1 Cor. 11.1

**Incarnation (Deity taking flesh)**

1. Jesus is both the full nature of God and he is the full nature of man (Phil. 2.5-11; Col. 1.15-22, 19 & 22). As such he is the mediator between God and man, 1 Tim. 2:5-6.
2. Jesus is the eternal second person of the God-head (Trinity) who became flesh, Heb. 2.16-18; 4.14-16.
   1. He can relate to us as humans
   2. He has given us an example of humility, service, priorities, etc.
   3. He demonstrates the missional character of God (Lk. 19.10)
3. Jesus is God, Jn. 1.1; 20.28; Titus 2.13, 2 Pet. 1.1; Phil. 2.5-11; Col. 2.9; Jn. 8.58-59 (Is. 43.25; 51.12; 52.6 I am statements)
4. Anselm of Canterbury (1093-1109) on why God had to become a man. The illustration of choosing between two bad options.

**At the Cross**

1. God suffered the consequences of human sin
   1. Problem is that God is holy and just. Man is sinful and is therefore unholy and unjust. So how is God both just and merciful?
   2. Solution is that Jesus as a fully human representative bears the penalty for human sin in our place. Also, because Jesus is the fully divine, Son of God, God himself bears our penalty so that the just God has paid the penalty of sin and can now show mercy.
2. God demonstrates love
   1. We see the extent of our rejection of God that it takes the death of God to cover our sin
   2. We see the extent of God’s love for us (Jn. 3.16; 1 Jn. 4.9-11)
3. God is victorious over sin and death
   1. Jesus bore the full penalty and mankind is no longer captive to sin and sin’s effects
   2. Effect of sin is death, but through the resurrection death is overcome (Col. 2.13-15; 1 Cor. 15.55-57)

**Resurrection**

1. All Christianity hinges on the resurrection
   1. Acts 2.22-36
   2. 1 Cor. 15.12-19
2. It is a bodily resurrection
   1. Jn. 20.19-29
   2. 1 Cor. 15.1-20
   3. Acts 17.16-18, 30-32
3. Resurrection occurred in human history (consider that the tomb is empty)

**Ascension**

1. Earth’s perspective: Acts 1.9-11
2. Heaven’s perspective: Rev. 5.1-14
3. Christ’s continued activity: Acts 7.54-60; 9.1-9
4. Christ’s continued intercession: Rom. 5.9-11; Heb. 7.25; 1 Jn. 2.1

**Return**

1. Unexpected: Mt. 24.42-25.13; 1 Thess. 5.1-6
2. Resurrection of the dead: 1 Thess. 4.13-18; 1 Cor. 15.35-58
3. Judgment: 2 Cor. 5:1-10