

POSTLUDE

REFRAIN For a Campaign

“Let this motto be upon your whole ministry: ‘Christ is all.’ ”

(Cotton Mather, c. 1720)

“Christ is All!” Surely, among the nations this phrase represents the most profound truth a human tongue can express. Surely, within a Church caught up in a crisis of supremacy, this phrase must form the clarion call from Christians to Christians everywhere. Surely, there’s no better message for any Campaign of Hope to proclaim ...

**We must aim our campaign
toward those who name the Name,
to reclaim in them the flame
of this radical refrain:
*“Christ is all!”***

In many ways these three words mirror the chief confession of another great campaign: the historic Protestant Reformation. Their cry was *solus christus* — declaring that eternal salvation could come through *Christ alone*. “*Christ is ALL!*” provides a motto for reforming 21st century believers. The vision is the same. Since God imparts every one of His promises through *Christ alone*, in the final analysis *only* Christ could ever be called our *all*. How could it be otherwise?

“Christ is All!”

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Should this be our refrain? Think about it:

- *Christ is all!* He brings life down to utter simplicity. Everything that matters is reduced to this one Person. Therefore, He is the only hope we *can* proclaim.
- *Christ is all!* He is thoroughly sufficient for the needs of a whole universe. He can satisfy the longings of the nations. He can infuse the saints with the power of resurrection life. Consequently, He is the only hope we *should* proclaim.
- *Christ is all!* He’s everything we have. He’s everything we need. We can actually make it with Him alone. So He is the only hope we *need* to proclaim.
- *Christ is all!* He belongs fully and equally, in His totality, to all who trust in Him, without exception. He is the only hope we could ever *want* to proclaim.
- *Christ is all!* He is our destiny. His throne is our home. He is the one with whom we will be preoccupied forever. That’s why there is *no other hope* for us to proclaim.

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So, what is this Campaign of Hope inside the Church *really* about? Is it about fostering a vision of the full extent of the supremacy of Christ? Is it about encouraging an awakening to the greater glory of Christ? Is it about re-converting God’s people back to Christ for all that He is? The refrain holds the answer. It’s about all of the above! Here’s why.

- In the Savior we have become eternal beneficiaries of the Triune God. Through Him we have inherited precious provisions — given by the Father to the Son to be endowed lavishly on the redeemed by the Spirit. **But** ... many Christians today have little sense of what this means and express little desire to seek God for more. Therefore, we need a Campaign of Hope that declares to them: “*Discover how fully Christ is all. Recover the hope you are meant to have!*”
- In Christ the promises and the Promise-er are forged inseparable. All of Heaven’s riches are bound up in our Lord *exclusively*. Each of God’s purposes will be culminated in our Lord *conclusively*. **But** ... many Christians today fumble in fogginess of vision while wandering in a wilderness of self-reliance, self-sufficiency, self-absorption, self-promotion. To reverse this trend, our Lord is worthy of a Campaign of Hope that urges believers: “*Discover why Christ is all. Recover the hope you are meant to have!*”
- Christ is able by virtue of Who He is to permanently and wondrously transform hosts of saints in Heaven and earth. No prospect of lasting blessings for any one, anywhere, at any time, exists outside of God’s Son. **But** ... many Christians today have put their hope in a vast array of other resources, even Christianly ones, and have made Christ mainly supplemental. How vital, then, is a Campaign of Hope that exclaims: “*Discover that only Christ is all. Recover the hope you are meant to have!*”
- The Kingdom that Christ brings is absolute, universal and all-encompassing. He is both the consummation and the consuming passion of every form of Christian hope. **But** ... many Christians today are more zealous for personal dreams and ambitions. They

often pursue Christ only as He is useful for achieving those goals.

That is why a Campaign of Hope must sound the warning: “*Discover now that Christ is all. Recover the hope you are meant to have!*”

The time has come. We must spread a vision of the magnificent greatness of Jesus among *Christians* once again! The time has come. We must help *one another* be consumed with His glory as a way of life. The time has come. We must focus on reforming *disciples* into strategic bases of operation, men and women who are passionate for the advance of His Kingdom among the nations.

Soon, “*Christ is all!*” will bear witness to a fresh movement of God across the Body of Christ. Soon, “*Christ is all!*” will define the greatest answer to the prayers of an entire generation. Soon, “*Christ is all!*” will resound throughout the Church, heard on the lips of all who have re-engaged their Savior in the full extent of His supremacy. Soon, “*Christ is all!*” will become the trademark of those who have recovered the hope we are meant to have.

“*Christ is All!*” proclaims even more, however. It announces the consummation of all things just ahead. It composes Heaven’s testimony of triumph to be sung for ages to come. It’s the pledge that will emblazon our banners on that unending Day when we rally to this uncontested Conqueror — when every hope will be perfectly consummated in Him.

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If you intend to claim such a refrain for your campaign, you must respond first the way John did in Revelation 1. On Patmos Island he encountered an unexpected revelation of his majestic Master looming before him as Alpha and Omega. What did John do? He fell down like a dead man — *in silence*. Trembling, in silence. Overwhelmed, in silence. Surrendered, in silence. Expectant, in silence. Waiting, in silence.

So it must be for you. To prepare for the Campaign of Hope that beckons, I invite you to respond the same as John did — in a moment of absolute, awe-struck ...

... SILENCE.

Set aside this book. Quiet your soul before the living Lord of Glory. Kneel, even. Worship your Supreme Commander. Be joyful in the courts of His Royal Highness. But, before anything else, be silent ...

Silent — alert for Him to come near to you as the hope we are meant to have ...

Silent — looking for Him to shine on you with the hope we are meant to have ...

Silent — listening for Him to speak to you about the hope we are meant to have ...

Silent — waiting for Him to draw you on toward the hope we are meant to have ...

Silent — eager to join Him to promote the hope we are meant to have ...

Silent — ready to help other believers recover the hope we are meant to have ...

Silent — poised for the rest of your life to proclaim the full extent of His supremacy because it is all the hope we are meant to have.

Then, as you begin your very own Campaign of Hope right where you live among those you love, make sure this one refrain remains the message you share and the identity you bear:

“Christ is All!”

