

What It Means To “Preach Christ” (concluded)

by Bill Crews

[continued from page 301202](#)

Now, let us return to Acts 8:5 to learn more about what Philip preached in preaching “the Christ.” Verse 6 says that they gave heed with one accord unto the things spoken by him when they *heard* his words and *saw* the signs (or miracles) which he did (in the beginning of the church the message spoken by chosen men was confirmed by the signs they were empowered to perform, Mk. 16:20). Verse 7 gives details of the signs, and verse 8 tells of their joy. Verses 9-11 gives the background of one of the converts, Simon who had been a sorcerer. And then the results of Philip’s preaching: “*But when they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women (no babies, BC). And Simon also himself believed: and being baptized, he continued with Philip; and beholding signs and great miracles wrought, he was amazed*” (vv. 12-13). In preaching the Christ, then, Philip told of the Christ who had come and of the kingdom of Christ that had been set up (please read Mark 1:14-15; 9:1 and Col. 1:13). During the ministry of Christ the kingdom was at hand (Matt. 3:1-2; 4:17; 10:1, 5-7; Lk. 10: 1, 8-9). From Acts 2 on it is spoken of as a reality. On “*the name of Jesus Christ*” see Acts 2:38 and 4:12. In preaching the Christ Philip preached baptism, for they were baptized in response to his preaching (see what Jesus commanded in Mk. 16:15-16 and Matt. 28:18-20). Finally, it would be to your enlightenment to read Acts 8:30-38 where the same Philip began with an Old Testament prophecy about the Christ and preached Jesus to a man. The story ends with that man’s confessing his faith in Jesus as the Christ, being baptized, and going on his way rejoicing.

I Am Amazed!

by Wayne Goff

Studying the Bible with the various Bible software tools available today is amazing. Many of you have the digital Bible on your computers, iPhones, iPads, PC’s, Androids, etc. I have three different Bible programs on my iPad *alone!* (Logos, Accordance, and YouVersion by LifeChurch.tv) I have available to me about twenty-five English translations, as well as Greek and Hebrew versions of each particular testament. I can hover over an English word with my computer’s mouse and a text box will come up with the corresponding Greek word — defined, transliterated, and parsed! If I choose, I can quickly open up *Strong’s Concordance*, or Robertson’s *Word Pictures*, or Vincent’s *Word Studies* to get a clearer picture of the original Greek word.

Numerous Bible commentaries can be purchased, or found nearly free, which continues the process of studying the Bible. Naturally, one must be careful in handling the Word of God. Some companies promote their denomination’s agenda through their Bible software. At this present time, the YouVersion by LifeChurch.tv is promoting Easter!

Daily Bible reading schedules can be set up, and when you turn on your computer, you are reminded to read that day’s Scripture! You can even set up the reading to be *chronological*.

Some Bible software now have corresponding photos of Bible lands, or short video clips illustrating that Scripture, etc. **I am amazed at what can be read, studied and learned in such a short period of time — and I am thankful.** It has made much of my work in Bible study more simple and effective.

You can download the YouVersion app of the Bible for your phone or iPad **for free!** You can read the Bible online if you have a computer and an internet connection — **Bible Gateway, Logos, BibleStudyTools.com**, etc.! If your eyes are getting older, then you can enlarge the type with the click of a button, or even have the Bible passage read to you via an Audio Bible!

It is possible to be “*ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*” (2 Tim. 3:7, κϒν)! One can get so wrapped up in studying facts, data, various translations, etc., that he never gets around to learning what to do to be saved, or to remain saved! God’s Word can be *analyzed* like never before — but that doesn’t make a person **believe** it! And one can be a bit overwhelmed by all the modern technology. Who knows what I am unaware of out there?! But Bible study is imperative, whether you are using an old-fashioned printed version, or a digital one. **Be sure you take the time to study!**

301203

