

# Sermon Study Guide – July 2nd, 2023

*Today's Focus: "Put Christ First, Not Peace"*

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Today we are starting a new worship series, *Define: Christian*.
- ◆ What part of today's theme is easy to get on board with?  
What part of today's theme is a little more difficult?
- ◆ How might Christ get in the way of peace? At the same time, how can Christ help us find peace?

2) Today's Message: Matthew 10:34-42

<sup>34</sup> "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—<sup>36</sup> a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' <sup>37</sup> "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it. <sup>40</sup> "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup> Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup> And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

3) What does God want you to hear today?

*Throughout the sermon, consider...*

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:



*Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...*

1. Use this area to make any notes for yourself on the sermon text:
2. How should we understand the statement, “Christ will divide”?
3. Why is Jesus right when he says, “whoever wants to find their life will lose (or, even, “destroy” it!)?
4. Why is Jesus right when he says, “whoever loses their life for my sake will find it”?
5. Why must we “put Christ first”? (And how can Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs” help us to answer this question?)
6. How will loving Christ first impact your love for others?

#### 4) Taking it Home:

*Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week’s truths:*

**Monday:** *review* Ex. 32:15-29, 1 Ti. 6:11-16    **Thursday:** Micah 7

**Tuesday:** Deuteronomy 33:1-11    **Friday:** Genesis 4

**Wednesday:** *review* Psalm 27    **Saturday:** *review* Matthew 10:34-42