

## And Have Not Christ

[I thought of starting this with the story of cathedral preacher Conrad but perhaps can find a better source] When I first arrived in Berlin I heard about the great cathedral preacher Conrad. It was a disappointment not to actually hear him preach, for he died soon after I arrived. However, I read a long article about him in the newspaper which told what a marvelous man and outstanding Christian he was. I was particularly impressed by the account of his going to an ecumenical conference to be held in Sweden. He went up there and they had various speakers who presented the liberal views of today with their generally agnostic tinges and attitudes. Then they called on him to speak. He just went to the front, took 1 Corinthians 13 and read it through substituting the word "Christ" for the word "love." "If I give my body to be burned and have not love it profits me nothing, etc."

It seemed to me a wonderful pointing out of the present situation--many people talking about religion, talking about doing good works, talking about carrying on religious services but not having Christ. A question important for everyone of us is do we really have Christ? Well, we all know something about Him. If we read the gospels we know quite a bit about Him. If we read Paul's epistles we know a great deal about the meaning of His life, of His death, and of His resurrection. We can always learn more. We need to learn ~~to~~ much more. Our whole life will be affected by how much we know about Him. But you can know all the facts about Christ that a human mind could possibly take in and it profits you nothing if you do not know Him. Do you actually have Christ? You will not have perfect knowledge. No. You will not have perfect sanctification. No. But the more you get to know Him, the more you realize your imperfections. The more you realize how far ~~short~~ short you fall of attaining the standard that He desires. Sometimes I have thought about it this way that the ordinary man,