



*Give Them Christ:
Preaching His
Incarnation, Crucifixion,
Resurrection, Ascension
and Return*

Available March 2012
\$15, 192 pages, paper
978-0-8308-3467-9

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No Other Name

Much preaching today begins with hearers' "felt needs" and then moves to how Christianity can solve those problems. But this approach often results in trite Christologies that use Jesus as a means to an end. While preachers might not dispense with Christ altogether, other things subtly take center stage.

Throwing down the gauntlet for Christian homiletics, Stephen Seamands rouses preachers to return Christ to the center of their practice. Addressing issues of doctrine and praxis, *Give Them Christ* shows how preachers can reflect the full scope of Jesus' work—incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension and return.

Key Points

- Preachers must not only know "what" Christ has done but also understand the "so what?" and then discern the implications for both the individual and the congregation.
- When hearers are captivated and transformed by Christ, they will follow hard after him and their deepest needs will be met in the process.
- Preachers need to be convinced of and gripped by the sufficiency and supremacy of Christ, and equipped to preach him as such.

From the Book

"Preaching is most fruitful when the message proclaimed is embodied in the messenger. Thus to preach Christ—incarnate, crucified, risen, exalted and coming again—we must be pervaded and possessed by him, participating ourselves in the very movements of the story we are proclaiming.

"When this happens, then our preaching will fulfill its ultimate purpose: to magnify Jesus Christ. That means, according to Robert Smith Jr., a contemporary professor of homiletics, 'not literally to make Him bigger' but 'to present Him in such a way that the hearers see Him in a more glorious, majestic, holy, sovereign, just, faithful, and mighty manner than they have ever seen Him before.'"