

AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

5/4/2017

Today we will study somewhat Christopher Columbus.

I. HIS INFLUENCE ON AMERICA IS GREAT

A. Many cities in America bear his name;

1. Columbia, Maryland
2. Columbia, Missouri, city
3. Columbia, South Carolina, city
4. Columbus, Georgia, city
5. Columbus, Indiana, city
6. Columbus, Mississippi, city
7. Columbus, Nebraska, city
8. Columbus, Texas, city
9. Columbus, Wisconsin, city
10. Columbus, Montana
11. Columbus, Ohio
12. District of Columbia
13. Columbiana County, Ohio
14. Columbiana, Ohio, city
15. Columbia County, New York
16. Columbia County, Pennsylvania
17. Columbia County, Wisconsin

18. Columbus Circle, New York City

B. Every child in school has been taught about Christopher Columbus.

II. COLUMBUS LOVED THE LORD AND HIS PRECIOUS WORD

A. The first island Columbus landed on he named San Salvador

1. The name means "Holy Saviour."

2. At San Salvador Columbus knelt and prayed; "O Lord, almighty and everlasting God, by Thy Holy Word Thou hast created the heaven, and the earth, and the sea; blessed and glorified be Thy Name, and praised be Thy Majesty, which hath deigned to use us, Thy humble servants, that Thy Holy Name may be proclaimed in this second part of the earth."

B. As Columbus landed on each island he made his men erect a large wooden cross: "As a token of Jesus Christ our Lord, and in honor of the Christian faith."

C. According to the personal log of Columbus his purpose in seeking "undiscovered worlds" was to:

1. "Bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the heathens."

2. "Bring the Word of God to unknown coastlands."

D. Between his third and fourth voyage in 1501 he cited the following passages

1. Ps 97:1 The LORD reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof

2. Isa 42:10 Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof

3. Isa 49:1 Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

4. Isa 49:6 And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth
 5. Isa 51:5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust
 6. Isa 60:9 Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.
 7. Isa 65:1 I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.
 8. Mt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost
 9. Ac 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth
- E. In his writings Columbus stated; "My hope in the One who created us all sustains me: He is an ever present help in trouble...When I was extremely depressed, He raised me with His right hand, saying, "O man of little faith, get up, it is I; do not be afraid."

III. THE ATTITUDE OF COLUMBUS IN TIMES OF AFFLICTION

- A. In July 1503 with failing health and stranded on the coast of Jamaica for one year Columbus related his many afflictions in his writings:

"In January the mouth of the river became obstructed. In April the vessels were all worm-eaten and I could not keep them above water. At this time the

river cut a channel, by which I brought out three empty ships with considerable difficulty. The boats went back into the river for salt and water. The sea rose high and furious and would not let them out again.

The Indians were many and united and attacked them and in the end killed them. My brother and all the rest of the people were living on board a vessel which lay inside. I was outside very much alone, on this rude coast, with a high fever and very fatigued. There was no hope of escape. In this state, I climbed painfully to the highest part of the ship and cried out for help; with a fearful voice, weeping, to your highnesses war captains, in every direction; but none replied. At length, groaning with exhaustion, I fell asleep, and heard a compassionate voice saying,

O fool, and slow to believe and serve thy God, the God of every man! What more did he do for Moses or for David his servant than for thee? From thy birth He hath ever held thee in special charge. When He saw thee at man's estate, marvelously did He cause thy name to resound over the earth.

The Indies, so rich a portion of the world, He gave thee for thine own, and thou has divided them as it has pleased thee. Of those barriers of the Ocean Sea, which were closed with such might chains, He hath give thee the keys. Thou was obeyed in so many lands, and thou hast won noble fame from Christendom. What more did He do for the people of Israel, when he carried them out of Egypt; or for David, whom from a shepherd He raised to be king over Judea?

Turn thou to Him and acknowledge thy faults; His mercy is infinite; thine old age shall not hinder thee from performing mighty deeds, for many and vast heritages He holdeth. Abraham was past 100 when he begat Isaac, and Sarah was no young girl. Thou criest out for succor with a doubting heart.

Whatever He promises He fulfills with interest; that is His way. Thus I have told thee what thy Creator hath done for thee and what He doth for all men. He hath now revealed a portion of the rewards for so many toils and dangers thou has borne in the service of others.”

B. Finally we understand why the name of Columbus means. “Christ-bearer”

IV. MORE WRITINGS OF COLUMBUS ARE GIVEN

- A. Columbus knew what it meant to walk in the Presence of our Lord. He revealed a close personal relationship with “our Lord.” Referring to his practice of “contemplating His Marvelous Presence.”
- B. Columbus stated that the “execution of the enterprise of the Indies” was the fulfillment of “the prophecy of Isaiah.”
- C. In the papers of Columbus he reveals his desire for the Indians to be converted to the Christian faith.
- D. “I attest that (the Holy Spirit) consoled me through the holy and sacred Scriptures...encouraging me to proceed...(and) they inflame me with a sense of great urgency.”
- E. “I only hold fast to the Holy and Sacred Scriptures.”
- F. “ Remember the Gospel texts and the many promises which our Savior made to us, and how all this has been put to a test: (for example) St. Peter, when he leapt into the sea...the mountains will obey anyone who has faith...all that is requested by anyone who has faith will be granted. Knock and it will be opened to you.”
- G. Two great closing truths;
 1. Those who have gone before us testify to the Goodness of God
 2. Heb 13:8: “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”