

MAGNIFYING CHRIST

Int.

1. Aim: To explain what it means to magnify Christ in our life
2. Phil. 1:20 **"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."**
3. Magnify
 - a. "To make great, to make conspicuous, to get glory and praise."-- Weust p. 44
 - b. "To make or declare great, increase or extol, enlarge, magnify, shew great." Strongs Greek Dictionary Entry # 3170
 - c. Our English word Magnify means to - Enlarge, amplify, expand, enhance.
4. We do not change Christ when we magnify him but we change the view that people have of Him. He was never small, but in the eyes of others He was !
5. We will notice three ways Christ can be magnified:

Discussion

I. TRANSFORMATION OF THE Individual

- A. Change from sinner to saint
 1. The change from being a servant of sin to being a servant of righteousness is a big change.
 2. Rom. 6:16 - 17 **"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."**

- a. Yield - ASV "to whom ye present yourselves [as] servants"
 - b. Servants to whom ye obey
 - (1) Sin = death
 - (2) Obedience = righteousness
 - c. Obeyed from the heart
 - d. Form of doctrine
 - e. This is a transformation
3. Jesus called it the "new birth" Jn. 3:3-5
- a. Born again
 - b. Born of water and spirit
4. This change is called conversion - Mt. 18:3 **"And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."**
- a. Converted - implies a change fitting something for a new or different use or function - Web. p. 940
 - b. Become as little children
- B. We are transformed by the renewing of our mind - Rm. 12;1-2 **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."**
1. Transformed - metamorphosis - change forms
 2. Renewing of mind

C. We are transformed into the likeness of Christ

1. N.T. reveals Christ
2. When we look into this mirror we are transformed into the same image - 2 Cor.

3:18 **"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."**

- a. Behold the glory of the Lord
- b. Changed into the same image

D. That which produces this transformation is the Word of Christ - **1 Pet. 1:22-25**

"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 24. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

1. Purified by obeying the truth - not by miracles today
2. Born again by the word of God
3. Word is the Gospel

E. Gospel of Christ is the power of God to bring about the salvation of the souls of men - Rm. 1:16

F. When we are transformed by the renewing of our mind then we magnify Christ -- we enlarge, expand, enhance the image of Christ to others.

II. CHRIST CONTROLLED LIFE BY A CHRIST CONTROLLED MIND

- A. Our life is controlled by our thoughts
1. Pro. 4:23 - out of heart are issues of life
 - a. **"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."** KJV
 - b. **"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."**
NKJV
 - c. **"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."** NIV
 2. Pro. 23:7a **"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:..."**
- B. The devil tries to influence our mind
1. II Cor. 11:3 - minds corrupted **"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."**
 2. ASV has footnote - minds, thoughts
- C. Thoughts precede action - Mk. 7:21-23 **"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."**
- D. Christ Controls our life by controlling our thoughts - 2 Cor. 10:3-5 **"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds: Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ:"**
1. Warfare is not in flesh - Battle is for control of the mind
 2. He who controls the mind controls the person

3. Bring thoughts into Captivity for Christ

E. This means that we must have the mind of Christ - Phil. 2:5 **"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"**

F. We magnify Christ by living a life that is controlled by his thoughts

III. LIVE LIKE CHRIST

Phil. 1:27 **"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel:"**

A. The way we use our body is a credit to the power of Christ - Phil. 1:21 **"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."**

1. Body belongs to the Lord - 1 Cor. 6:19,20

2. Our body is presented as a "living sacrifice" Rom. 12:1,2

3. Body becomes an instrument of righteousness - Rm. 6:12,13, 19

a. Tongue used to declare the words of life - Mk.16:15 Mt. 28:18 1 Tim. 2:2

b. Tongue used to praise God - Heb. 13:15 Col. 3:16 Eph. 5:19 Jas. 3:9

c. Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace - Eph. 6:15

d. Hands are devoted to honest toil and in helping those in need - Eph. 4:28

B. "Manner of life" of the Christian is becoming to the gospel

1. Phil. 1:27 **"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel:"**

a. Manner of life

- b. Worthy of the Gospel - NKJV
- 2. Life of Christian can adorn or beautify the teaching of Christ - Tit. 2:10 **"Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."**
- 3. Doctrine of Christ is magnified in a life which demonstrates the practical nature of the Lord's teaching.

CONCLUSION

- 1. Manner of life of the immoral or indifferent members is a stumbling block to others
 - a. Rom. 14:13 **"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."**
 - b. Demagnifying Christ
- 2. The life of a faithful, dedicated Christian magnifies the doctrine of Christ - Phil. 1:20 **"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."**
- 3. Magnify Christ by:
 - a. Transformed from sinner to saint
 - b. Christ controlled life - by controlling our thoughts
 - c. Live Like Christ in our body
- 4. Poem -- "I'd rather see a sermon
- 5. Mt. 5:16

I'd Rather See a Sermon

I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day,
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely show the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear:
Fine counsel is confusing, but example is always clear:
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see the good in action is what everybody needs.
I can soon learn how to do it if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lectures you deliver may be wise and true;
But I'd rather get my lesson by observing what you do.
For I may misunderstand you and the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.

- By Edgar A. Guest

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com