

## Magnifying Christ

### Int.

1. Aim: To show ways in which we are to magnify Christ on the earth !
2. Text 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."
  - a. Paul preached even while a prisoner in Rome
  - b. Not ashamed because he was in prison.
  - c. Christ will still be magnified in his body whether in life or death.
3. What does a magnifying glass do?
  - a. Some will say "it makes things larger". This is not true!
  - b. It only makes things appear larger so they may be seen more clearly and distinctly
  - c. At a ball game you use binoculars to get a close up view of the game
  - d. Use a magnifying glass to read the Bible. Print appears larger, but it is not.
4. In the same way Paul was serving as a magnifying glass for the world so Christ could be seen more easily. The world could see Christ revealed in him.
5. The scriptures teach that the world is to see Christ revealed in his followers.
  - a. Matt. 5:14-16 - light of the world
  - b. The church is evaluated by the lives of its members
  - c. Christ seen under the magnifying glass of godly living will show the world that they should be Christians also!

6. I I Cor 3:2-3 "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart."
- a. A Christian is an epistle or letter, to declare Christ to the world.
  - b. But he is also a magnifying glass of godly living to more clearly reveal Him to those who do not read their bible. !
7. Notice how Christ was magnified in Paul's body and it can be true with our body!

## Discussion

### I. HIS OBEDIENT SPIRIT

#### A. Jesus was always obedient

1. When a child - Luke 2:51a "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them:"
2. When a man - Heb. 5:8-9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"
3. Jesus declared - John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."
4. In his prayer to God in John 17 he said in v. 4 "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do."
5. After his death it was written of him - Phil. 2:8 "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

6. Only this attitude of obedience could cause him to utter these words "Not my will but thine be done." Luke 22:42

B. Paul magnified this same kind of obedience to the world

1. He reported his conversion in this way. "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision," Acts 26:19
2. Paul obeyed the gospel of Christ with unswerving devotion as long as he lived
3. Paul's constant obedience revealed Christ to the world

C. Application

1. We are to obey Christ and magnify him to the world
2. We can't obey him occasionally or when we like the commands and magnify Him.  
Partial obedience is really disobedience.
3. Must obey whether preacher or elder or other Christians will know about it.
4. Phil. 2:12 "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;"
5. This kind of obedience will magnify Christ to the world.

## **II. HIS PRAYERFUL SPIRIT**

### A. Christ prayed

1. He prayed often in public places
2. Yet it is recorded that he “went apart to pray” on several occasions.
  - a. Matt. 14:23 “And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.”
  - b. Mark 6:46 Luke 6:12 Luke 9:28
3. He prayed before:
  - a. Selecting his apostles
  - b. Raising the dead
  - c. Facing his crucifixion
4. He taught his disciples to pray also.

### B. Paul magnified Christ by his prayerful attitude and life

1. Dungeon in Philippi - Paul and Silas prayed at midnight - Acts 16:25
2. Leaving the elders at Ephesus “And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.” Acts 20:36
3. Seven verses later we read “When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.” Acts 21:5
4. Paul told the Christians at Thessalonica “Pray without ceasing” 1 Thes. 5:17
5. He asked “Brethren, pray for us.” And “I would that men pray everywhere.” 1 Tim. 2:8
6. Paul magnified Christ to the world by his prayer attitude

### C. Application

1. We magnify Christ to the world with a prayerful spirit
2. Not to pray to be seen or heard of man - Matt. 6:5-6
3. Pray to God for help and guidance.
4. No Christian should be ashamed to pray
5. How often do you pray? - 1 Thes. 5:17

## **III. HIS SPIRIT OF HUMILITY**

### A. Christ was an example

1. Phil. 2:8 "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."
2. Matt. 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
3. He humbly accepted the cruelty of crucifixion that others might be exalted

### B. Paul by his spirit of humility magnified Christ

1. Gal. 6:14 " But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."
2. He humbly accepted whatever the Lord chose for him. Phil. 4:12 "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."

### C. Application

1. Christians are instructed to... "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" 1 Pet. 5:6
2. Again in James 4:10 we read "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."
3. Humility in our life magnifies Christ to the world.

## **IV. HIS SPIRIT OF SELF DENIAL**

### A. Christ

1. Though heaven was his home and earth was his creation he said, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Matt. 8:20
2. He gave up riches, honor, and glory and all pleasures of the world so we could be saved.
3. He was willing to deny himself the comforts of life on earth.

### B. Paul also had this spirit

1. He so completely gave himself to the Lord that he could say. "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ" Phil. 3:7-8
2. Paul's life was one of self-denial to the things of this world.

### C. Application

1. Jesus gave us this challenge "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23
2. Where is this spirit of self-denial in the lives of Christians today ?
3. What have we sacrificed for His cause?
4. Rom. 12:1
5. By self-denial we magnify Christ.

## **V. HIS FORGIVING SPIRIT**

### A. Christ

1. On the cross He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34
2. His spirit of forgiveness prompted His giving of His life for us.

### B. Paul

1. He humbly accepted persecution and railed not against his accusers.
2. He wrote to the church at Corinth "But to whom ye forgive anything, I forgive also: for what I also have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, for your sakes have I forgiven it in the presence of Christ;" I I Cor. 2:10 ASV
3. He told the Christians at Ephesus: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph.4:32

### C. Application

1. Jesus taught us "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Matt. 6:14-15
2. We must have this forgiving spirit.
3. It magnifies Christ when we do have this forgiving spirit.

## **VI. HIS SPIRIT OF LIBERALITY**

### A. Christ

1. "...though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." II Cor. 8:9
2. "Greater love hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."  
John 15:13

### B. Paul

1. He said, "I seek not yours, but you:...and I will gladly spend and be spent for you."  
II Cor. 12:14-15
2. He turned his back on all the wealth his position among the Jews could have brought him.
3. He gave himself entirely to the cause of Christ
4. He magnified Christ by his liberality and unselfishness

### C. Application

1. We are taught to be liberal by Christ, for he said: "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Luke 6:38
2. Paul repeats the words of Jesus in Acts 20:35 when he said, "It is more blessed to give than receive."
3. Christians today magnify Christ by their liberality and unselfishness

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Luke 1:46 "And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord."
  2. Acts 19:17b "...and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified."
  3. Are others able to see Christ better by your life.
  4. If you look through binoculars backward everything looks smaller.
  5. Are you magnifying Christ ?
  6. Christ had a Spirit of...
    - a. Obedience
    - b. Prayerful
    - c. Humility
    - d. Self-denial
    - e. Forgiving
    - f. Liberality.
  7. Let us magnify Christ by having these same attitudes.
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