

## Lesson 70 Answers and Comments

Knowledge	yesterday	heat
Truth	one	burned
Shortly	thing	perfect
Off	seen	good
Tabernacle	not	works
Hands	temporal	walk
Carry	eternal	worthy
Not	slack	pleasing
Death	promise	fruitful
Spoken	longsuffering	good
Secret	willing	work
Last	any	increasing
Continue	perish	knowledge
Beginning	repentance	children
Creation	longsuffering	understanding
World	salvation	understanding
Overflowed	Paul	men
Water	epistles	
Perished	these	
Return	things	
Gather	day	
Nations	Lord	
Destruction	thief	
Almighty	heavens	
Thousand	away	
Thousand	noise	
One	elements	
Thousand	melt	

Just as God does not force men to be saved, He doesn't force believers to have understanding. Have you ever tried to bring a fellow believer unto the knowledge of the truth and been met with nothing but resistance? Should we keep trying to dispel their ignorance?

I Cor. 14:38 "But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant."

I Tim. 6:3-5 and II Tim. 4:3, 4 also bear on this.

II Thes. 3:14 "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed."

When ignorance is a choice of denying the rightly divided word of God, we should move on. People often become more antagonistic with the harder we try to "enlighten" them. I think of Apollos, a man mighty in the scriptures, who when Aquila and Priscilla expounded the way of God more perfectly to him, received the instruction and was a great help to Paul in the work of the ministry. Acts 18:24-28

I pray that you and I will be eager to learn and advance in the knowledge of Christ our Lord.

## Lesson 71 A Life's Verse

Do you have a life's verse? Is there one verse that is especially meaningful to you? I often hear Phil. 1:21 quoted as someone's life verse. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." This is indeed an all encompassing verse that Paul writes.

Paul is writing to the saints at Philippi from prison.

Phil. 1:13 "So that my \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ are manifest in all the palace..." Paul was no stranger to prison.

Eph. 6:20 "For which I am an ambassador in \_\_\_\_\_..."

Col. 4:3 "...for which I am also in \_\_\_\_\_:"

II Tim. 2:9 "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto \_\_\_\_\_..."

II Cor. 11:23 "...in \_\_\_\_\_ more frequent..."

In Acts 23:18, the Chief Captain refers to Paul as, Paul, the \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul was not in prison for any crime that he committed. He was imprisoned for preaching the message the risen Lord had given him. That is why he considered himself the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ according to Eph.3:1.

Eph. 4:1 "I therefore, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_..."

II Tim. 1:8 "...nor of me his \_\_\_\_\_:"

Philemon 1:1 "Paul, a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_..."

It was for Christ that Paul was bound.

Philemon 1:9 "...and now also a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_:"

From his prison cell, Paul writes to these believers at Philippi.

Paul did not view his imprisonment as a defeat.

Phil. 1:13, 14 "So that my \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ are \_\_\_\_\_ in all the \_\_\_\_\_, and in all other \_\_\_\_\_; vs. 14 And \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord, waxing \_\_\_\_\_ by my \_\_\_\_\_, are much more \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ without fear."

Paul was not about himself. Paul was all about Christ. If his imprisonment caused others to believe and others to boldly preach Christ, then great! That is why Paul could pen Phil. 1:21, "For to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_..."

Paul explains what it means when he says "to live is Christ," in vs. 20 of Phil. 1. Read vs. 20. "...so now also \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_, whether it be by \_\_\_\_\_ or by \_\_\_\_\_."

Christ magnified in his body was Paul's reason for life itself.

## Lesson 71 Continued

What exactly does Christ magnified in our body mean? When we look at something through a magnifying lens what happens? A. It appears smaller. B. It appears larger. C. It appears fuzzy. Of course it appears larger than it really is. This is not the idea Paul is conveying in Phil. 1:20. He didn't want to make Christ appear larger than He is. Paul uses this same idea in II Cor. 4:11 "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the \_\_\_\_\_ also of \_\_\_\_\_ might be made \_\_\_\_\_ in our \_\_\_\_\_." Paul wanted Christ to be magnified or manifest in his body. Manifest means to clearly show, set forth, make known.

In Rom.13:11 Paul \_\_\_\_\_ his office. Paul put all the emphasis, importance on the office or the peculiar ministry given to him by the Lord. (Eph. 3:1-11)

Paul wanted to make Christ known, manifest, magnified in his body. Paul viewed his body as an earthen \_\_\_\_\_ in II Cor. 4:7. A vessel that had a \_\_\_\_\_ within it. This treasure is described for us in II Cor. 4:6 as the "\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

My friend, when you and I heard the glorious gospel of Christ it was a light that shined in our hearts breaking the darkness of our unbelief and the blindness that Satan had on our minds. We now have the knowledge of the glory of God revealed to us, where? In the face of Jesus Christ. We now know that Jesus Christ encompasses all the glory of Almighty God. Jesus Christ, God's plan of wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption!

I Cor. 1:30 "But of him are ye \_\_\_\_\_, who of \_\_\_\_\_ is made unto us \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."

Everything God has for you and for me is wrapped up in His Son, Jesus Christ! Paul wanted this treasure in his vessel to shine out. The knowledge of the glory of God was not in the face of Jesus Christ as Israel's Messiah, Deliverer, or Salvation. The knowledge of the glory of God was now in the face of Jesus Christ as all He was revealed to Paul to be. Making this known was what Paul's life was all about in magnifying Christ in his life.

Eph. 3:8,9 "Unto \_\_\_\_\_, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should \_\_\_\_\_ among the \_\_\_\_\_ the unsearchable \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ." vs. 9 "And to make \_\_\_\_\_ men see what is the fellowship of the \_\_\_\_\_..."

With every fiber of his being he manifested, magnified Christ. Not as the babe in the manger, the miracle worker, or Israel's coming King. But Christ, the one in whom we are \_\_\_\_\_ Col.2:10.

Col. 2:19, Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_

Col. 3:4 Christ, our \_\_\_\_\_

Col. 1:19 Christ, in whom all \_\_\_\_\_ dwells

Eph. 2:18 Who is our \_\_\_\_\_ unto the Father

Eph. 2:15, Christ, who in himself makes of Jew and Gentile on \_\_\_\_\_

II Cor. 5:17 "Christ in whom we are a new \_\_\_\_\_.

## Lesson 71 Continued

We have to stop but we could go on for all eternity extolling our Lord and Saviour! This is what Paul meant when he said in Phil. 1:21 “For to me to live is Christ...”

Was Paul successful? Did he accomplish that which he wanted to do?

II Tim. 4:7 “I have \_\_\_\_\_ a good \_\_\_\_\_, I have \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_, I have \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_:”

Paul summoned up his life as having accomplished that which he wanted to do. Make Christ known. He then finishes Phil. 1:21 with “For me to live is Christ, but to \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.” Paul had God’s view of death. Death to Paul was gain. If living was Christ to Paul, then going to be with Him was to achieve the greatest gain.

Paul uses the word gain about a dozen times. He speaks of gaining or winning souls to Christ, I Cor. 9:19-22 “...that I might \_\_\_\_\_ the more,” vs. 20 “...that I might \_\_\_\_\_ them that are under the law.” Vs. 21 “that I might \_\_\_\_\_ them that are without the law.” Vs. 22 “...That I might \_\_\_\_\_ the weak.”

Paul had a fervent desire to win souls to Christ. Paul counted all his achievements for self to be \_\_\_\_\_ according to Phil. 3:7.

In Phil. 3:8 Paul goes on to say that “...I count \_\_\_\_\_ things but \_\_\_\_\_ for the excellency of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_: for whom I have suffered the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ things, and do count them but \_\_\_\_\_, that I may \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.”

In vs. 9 Paul says, “And be \_\_\_\_\_ in him...” Established, set in Christ was all he wanted. Vs. 10 “That I may \_\_\_\_\_ him...” Paul wanted his mind filled with Christ. This was really living to Paul. Only a believer whose life is Christ can truly finish Phil. 1:21 “to die is gain”. Paul is not saying that dying is gain against the backdrop of a crippled body, a disease ridden body, life in a wheelchair or a discouraged or deranged mind.

No, he says dying is gain while he’s living the best life he could imagine, doing the greatest things he wanted to do.

Phil. 1:23, Paul says “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, and to be \_\_\_\_\_; which is \_\_\_\_\_:”

Let us be likeminded with Paul and say “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” What a verse to have as a life’s verse!

Next time we will see just where the power comes from to make this verse a living reality in our lives.

Do you have a favorite or special verse? If so, I would appreciate it if you would share it with me so I can pass it on to the others in this study.