



Sunday, November 18, 2018

A QUIET COMMITMENT:

- QUIET your mind and soul before the LORD — *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10)
- COMMIT to obedience: *Commit* to doing whatever God will say to you in this message — *“to obey is better than sacrifice”* (1 Samuel 15:22)

I. The WEALTH of the Believer (1:1-3:21)

A. Introduction (1:1-2)

B. The Christian and His RICHES (1:3-23)

1. Paul’s PRAISE of God (1:3-14)
2. Paul’s PRAYER to God (1:15-23)

Paul’s *prayer* is in light of his *praise*. The “*spiritual blessings*” contained in his hymn of praise are of such transcendent truths that he feels the need to pray for the recipients of these blessings. He prays for their understanding—that they would be able to comprehend what they have in Christ.

- a. The PASSION of His Prayer (15-16)
- b. The PURPOSE of His Prayer—ILLUMINATION (17-18a)
 - i. The PREMISE of Illumination—God opens the eyes
 - ii. The PRAYER for Illumination—*“Open Thou mine eyes”*
 - iii. The PRINCIPLE of Illumination—Search Diligently
- c. The _____ of His Prayer (17-23)

Paul’s prayer was marked by what this divine illumination would produce. This illumination is to the knowledge of specific transforming truths. As a result, of this knowledge would be practically manifested in the life of the obedient believer by being transformed.

James 1:2-3 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers [various] temptations; **3** Knowing [being certain of] this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience [cheerful endurance].

A.W. Tozer on the need for Illumination: “The sum of what I am saying is that there is an illumination, divinely bestowed, without which theological truth is information and nothing more. While this illumination is never given apart from theology, it is entirely possible to have theology without the illumination.” (“The Incredible Christian”, 61-64)

i. **KNOWING** the _____ of Christ (17b)

This “*knowledge*” is knowledge that is true, accurate, and thorough. It is God-illuminated through the “*Spirit of wisdom and revelation.*”

- a) Knowing God is _____ **LIFE** (John 17:3)
- b) Knowing God **PRODUCES** _____ (Col. 1:9-10)
- c) Knowing God _____ **GRACE** and **PEACE** (2 Peter 1:2)

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

ii. **Knowing our** _____ in Christ (18)

- a) Our _____ (18b)
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2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises [excellencies / virtues] of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:

Our life of righteousness is through being “conformed to the image of His Son” which will result in being “glorified” in heaven for all of eternity (Rom. 8:28-30).

b) His _____ (18c)

Romans 8:32 He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

2 Thessalonians 1:10 When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Philippians 3:21 Who shall change [*transform*] our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Summary: We must commit our lives to the intentional pursuit of the transforming truths of Scripture through the process of illumination. There are powerful truths that God wants us to know—that God wants to “open the eyes of our understanding” to.

Pray and ask God to “Open my eyes,” unveiling the “knowledge of Himself” to you. These truths are to be daily “counted” in order to cheerfully endure the difficulties of life.



Our WORTHY WALK is the process of understanding the Holy Spirit’s ministry of ILLUMINATION that enables us to “behold wondrous things” from God’s most precious Word. Through ILLUMINATION we better understand the PERSON of Christ, our POSITION in Him as well as His POWER and PRESTIGE.

What is my next step? Please consider doing the questions on the back of this page.

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25

Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date: _____ Text: _____ Speaker: _____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (**Put OFF SIN**)
2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?
3. What does God say to me in this text? (**Renew your mind**)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?
4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (**Renew your mind**)
5. In light of what **I** have heard from God, ... (**Put ON CHRIST**)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)



OUR MISSION: *Supremely love GOD,
Sacrificially love others
—ALL to the GLORY of GOD!*