

INTRODUCTION

- * Paul has exhorted the church of Philippi to be united and to have one mind. And that oneness was supposed to be in Christ Jesus. They needed to take upon themselves the mind of Christ - the mind of a bondsman rooted in humility.
- * In the Greek language there are a variety of words for "thinking." Each of them is used to discuss our relationship with Christ. For example, the core message of Jesus' ministry was translated into one Greek word: μετανοεω (verb) or μετανοια (noun) ... change your thinking! There are three specific word groupings which are important to consider, and which Paul uses in his writings: νους ... the mind; moral or intellectual thinking; your understanding; φρονεω ... thoughts as emotions/feelings; wisdom; and λογισμος ... logical, rational thought processes. Three good passages to compare these types of thinking are Matthew 16:5-23, 1 Corinthians 13:1 and Philippians 4:2-10.
- * Our growth in discipleship should ultimately change our thinking process in all three categories. Changing the way you think in the moral/intellectual will affect how you think logically and how you think emotionally/practically. Changing the way you think about God, sin, redemption, and judgment ought to lead you to the desire to follow Christ and let the "mind of Christ" reign in you.
- * Jesus stated in Matthew 7 that you will know others by the fruit of their trees. Someone who is connected to Christ will produce good fruit and will ultimately be heavenly minded. Their pursuits will be godly pursuits. They will seek to have wisdom from above and not from earth.
- * Paul has revealed his purpose is to live for Christ. That life purpose was a result of Paul embracing the mind of Christ - Christ's way of thinking.
- * Today, we see how this new purpose in life framed his passionate pursuit and set the pattern for all other believers.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE PURPOSE (v. 7-11)

A. The C _____ of Gaining Christ (v. 7-8)

- * "GAIN" (cf. Matthew 16:26; 18:15; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22 5x; 1 Peter 3:1)
- * DENYING YOURSELF (cf. Matthew 10:37-39; 16:24-26; Mark 10:17-25; John 12:23-26)...

B. The C _____ to Gaining Christ (v. 9)

1. RE _____ MY RIGHTEOUSNESS
2. RE _____ HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

C. The C _____ of Gaining Christ (v. 9)

1. THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST (cf. Jer 9:23-24)
 - a. In the Power of His Resurrection
 - b. In the Fellowship of His Sufferings
2. THE ASSURANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

II. THE PURSUIT (v. 12-14)

A. The I _____

B. The P _____

1. FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND!
2. REACHING FORWARD TO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE AHEAD!

III. THE PATTERN (v. 15-19)

A. The Exhortation (v. 15-16)

1. W _____ BY THE SAME S _____
2. T _____ WITH THE SAME M _____

B. The Warning (v. 17-19)

1. THE ACCUSATION:
2. THE EXPLANATION
 - a. Their End is Destruction
 - b. Their God is the Belly (Romans 16:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:1-5)
 - c. Their Glory is the Shame (cf. Hosea 4:1-10)
 - d. Their Mind is focused on earthly things (cf. Romans 8:5-10; Colossians 3:1-2)

INTROSPECTION

- * How would God describe your "mind set"? What does your "standard" look like?
- * What is it in life that you are "pursuing"?
- * Is knowing Jesus honestly your highest pursuit?
- * What are you willing "to lose" in order "to gain" Christ?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Have there been things in your life that you have had to forfeit in order to pursue your relationship with Jesus? What kind of things? How hard was it to "forfeit" them?
- * Delineate some of the things that you have gained in Christ. What are some of the results of turning to Jesus? Are all of these positive from the perspective of the world? What is the greatest reward to which we look forward? How does that compare to those things which we have forfeited?