

## ARE YOU A TELESCOPE OR MICROSCOPE?

***Col 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.***

The Apostle Paul wrote nearly 2000 years ago that we as Christians must set our mind on things above, not on the things on earth. Paul faced difficult times in which he needed to focus on God and not on earthly things. How much more do we living in 2008 with all that is going on around us need this precious word- set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on earth. Paul knew something about humans. He knew that we were created by God to magnify things. Every person is a magnifier. The magnifying lens within us is our mind. What we set our mind upon will be magnified. Another thing that Paul knew was that whatever we focus on will influence and ultimately control us. What we magnify will determine our actions! This is why Paul told us to set our mind on things above and not on the earth because heavenly things will influence and empower us if we will focus on them. However, if we focus on earthly things then those things will influence us and control us. Paul lived what he preached. In the toughest of situations Paul kept his focus on the Lord. We see this when he was cast into prison for preaching the faith. While he was in prison some brothers began preaching with more boldness than ever. Other more legalistic brothers who preached Christ but hated Paul's grace message used it as an opportunity to malign him hoping it would cause him more problems in prison. Paul had a choice on what his focus was going to be on. Was it going to stay on the Lord and that His message was getting out or was it going to be on all the bad things people were doing to Him?

*Php 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*

*Php 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,*

*Php 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.

Paul decided to focus on the Lord. He decided that Christ would be magnified in His body. Our mind is the magnifying lens but our body is where it is displayed. What we have been focusing on will ultimately without fail be seen on our faces and in our actions. Christ was magnified in Paul's body because his focus was on the Lord and upon His saving power. Paul knew the importance of our focus. That is why he said to focus our attention up and not down.

There are two types of magnifiers. There are telescopes and there are microscopes. A telescope magnifies large objects that are far away and appear to us small. A telescope actually brings things into true focus. A telescope is an instrument that focuses on reality. It makes large objects appear large. A microscope is different. A microscope takes very small things and blows them up much bigger than they really are. A microscope actually distorts reality! What is the difference between a telescope and a microscope? The direction in which they are pointed! A telescope is set upon what is above, and a microscope is set upon what is below. It is pointed downward towards the earth. Paul is admonishing us to become telescopes that will magnify the Lord and heavenly things. So often we are so engrossed in the problems of this life that God and spiritual things seem so distant and far away. Our personal problems and the problems of our world loom large to us. This is because our focus is in the wrong direction! If we would set our minds on what is above and leave them there then God and heavenly things will be brought into proper focus and we will see God as he is **BIG** and **POWERFUL**. Once our focus is upon Him, God can influence us and empower us from heaven and He will be magnified in our bodies that others can see Him also! Too often we are microscopes. Our continual focus is upon things on the earth. Our focus is often on ourselves and we magnify ourselves. This makes us a **BIG** zero. In ourselves we are nothing. In God we are **GREAT!** Too often our focus is on our problems- financial, physical, interpersonal, and emotional. We often will blow up a small thing into a **HUGE** thing because that is what we are focusing on. We lose all perspective on reality! We make the proverbial mountain out of the mole hill. You have the power to be transformed in an instant from a microscope to a telescope by repenting and changing the

direction of your focus. Look up to see your God Christian! He is bigger than anything you face. He just needs to be magnified in your life! How do we magnify the Lord in our life? The Word of God gives us directions on this!

***Job 36:24 Remember that thou magnify His work, which men behold.***

We magnify the Lord when we remember His finished work. The Lord is magnified when we remember and focus on what Jesus died for and what it has brought us. We magnify the Lord when we renew our mind that it is by His finished work that we are blessed by God. When we magnify the Lord and His work then people will behold God for themselves and want to know Him also!

***Psa 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.***

When the problems of our daily life come upon us we can choose to remember and focus on what God has done for us in the past. If we will start thanking God for what He has done the He will be magnified in our present situation. Grumbling and murmuring is a sure sign your focus is downward and you are being a microscope! Start being thankful and you will see God magnified in your life. The anointing flows in thanksgiving!

***Psa 138:2 I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your loving-kindness and for Your truth's sake; for You have magnified Your Word above all Your name.***

God magnifies His Word above His name. God's is always focused upon His Word to see that it is done. We need to magnify His word also by meditating in His promises. Then faith will come and God will be magnified in our life!

***Act 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,***

When we speak in tongues we are focusing on Him. When we pray in the Spirit we magnify God in our lives.

It is our choice each moment of each day to be a telescope or a microscope. I can tell you for sure that I like being around telescopes a lot better than microscopes!

Psa 34:3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

What and who will you magnify today? Are you going to be a telescope or a microscope? I choose to be a telescope like Paul did. Come magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together!