

Glory be to God- Pt. 2

GSM 10/14/09

I. Two Approaches to Life

A. The two different answers to the question, "What is most important to God?" produce two different approaches to life.

B. Col 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

1. **Set your mind on things above-** This is a present tense command in the Greek- Be constantly thinking upon things above

a. A heavenly lifestyle begins with a heavenly mindset. You cannot live like those in heaven do and live for self.

b. Everyone in heaven is God focused and all is done for the glory of God. It should be the same here!

c. This is living the high life! **1Co 10:31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.**

C. not on things on the earth

1. A selfish Christian is an earth bound Christian. They are a carnal Christian. They often have a spotty Word, prayer, and church life. Therefore they live a spotty life! If they do study the Word, pray, or attend church they do it for what they can get out of it and to fulfill their personal ambition and purposes. These will end up frustrated that God does not perform for them like they think He should and get offended at God for not coming through for them.

2. This is living the low life. It spirals downward.

3. **Bottom line between these two ways of thinking are this- A heavenly mindset is that we exist for God and to bless Him. A**

earthly mindset is that God exists for us and to bless us. Our whole lives will be impacted by which mindset we hold!

- E. When it comes to the Christian life it is not so important what we do, but why we do what we do. It is possible to do good things and do them from the paradigm of self. Study of Word, prayer, giving, church attendance, and ministry is done for selfish purposes and for what it will benefit us. However, we can do the same things from the paradigm of glorifying God.
- F. So many Christians are doing the right things but are not seeing fruit, blessing, and power because they are doing them from the center of self. Instead of realizing that their paradigm is off, they will seek more right things to do that will get things turned around. It is a futile and vicious cycle that ends up nowhere. An individual and even a church can have this happen to them. Eventually a Christian with this paradigm will get frustrated with God because He did not come through for them as they thought he should have or promised.
- G. When a Christian operates from the paradigm of glorifying God it releases fruit bearing, blessing, and power from heaven in order to bring God glory.
- H. We must allow the Spirit of God to reveal to us our motives. A pure motive is one of the rarest things in the world. We can preach, teach, minister, and have the finest programs but if our paradigm is off we will be ineffective in the kingdom.

II. Like-minded with Jesus

A. **Php 2:19** I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.

Php 2:20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.

Php 2:21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

B. **send Timothy-** Gr. *Timotheos- One who honors God*

1. Timothy had the character of his name. He honored God, not himself

2. Timothy had a servant's heart- He loved God and wanted to serve where God wanted him to

3. Timothy had helped Paul establish the Philippian church

4. He was unlike young Mark who was about the same age who went with Paul on his first missionary journey. Mark was looking out for himself and abandoned Paul when they needed him.

However, Timothy stuck by Paul even when it was dangerous and hard going. Timothy stuck by Paul unto the end and stayed faithful to his post after he died.

5. Paul was sending Timothy as a servant to minister to them

C. **I also-** Paul was concerned with their state, but who is the **also** referring to? It is Timothy! Timothy generally cared about this church and how they were doing. He had a genuine interest and care for them. This came from the love of Christ in His heart and His fellowship with Christ- the same place Paul got his from.

D. **For I have no man-** Paul did not even have one other person on his ministry staff like Timothy. He was the only one. This is sad.

E. **Like minded-** Gr. *isopsuchos-* of *equal soul-* we need to team up with those who are of equal soul –those who have the same way of thinking and the desire to glorify God and the determination to pursue it at all costs.

F. **For all-** every single person except Timothy **seek-** Gr. *zeteo-* *are seeking or looking out for their own things and not the things of Jesus Christ*

1. All of those around Paul were in the ministry for what it would do for them or what it could get them to some degree.

2. Paul was one of the biggest names in the ministry. Many young ministers wanted to be on his team and be seen with him. They wanted to be mentored by him. They wanted the kind of recognition Paul received.

3. Things have not changed. If that was the way it was back then, it is the same today. People have not changed from the days of Paul. In his day most were in the ministry more for self than to glorify God. Many of those in the ministry today are in it for themselves instead of to honor and glorify God.

4. It is vital to understand grace and your identity in Christ before you enter the ministry or you will use the ministry and people to meet your own emotional needs for value, worth, and importance. This will hinder the flow of the Spirit of Christ through you. Many

really want a growing ministry for their own desire for recognition and honor instead of their love for people and to glorify God.

G. Timothy was like-minded with Paul, but Paul was like-minded with Jesus

1. His mission was to glorify God-(**Joh 6:38**) For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own Timothy will, but the will of Him who sent Me.
2. His miracles were for God's glory-(**Joh 12:28**) Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again."
3. Jesus death upon the cross was first and foremost to glorify God-(**Joh 21:19**) This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow me."

H. Peter became like-minded with Jesus

1. Peter started out very self centered and self ambitious. He was strong, gifted, and a born leader. However, His paradigm was off.
 - a. **Luk 5:4** When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
Luk 5:5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."
Luk 5:6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.
 - b. This net symbolized Peter. Peter was not yet ready for the master's use. He was filled with self.

- c. Peter at the last supper boasted in his loyalty above all others. However, the rock was broken before a young girl the night Jesus was betrayed.
- d. (Joh 21:11) Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.
- e. Again the net symbolized Peter. Peter was broken of living for self and now was ready to live for God's glory. His net did not break. He now was ready for the Master's use!
- f. **Peter taught this principle in his ministry- 1Pe 4:1** Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same resolve--because the One who suffered in the flesh has finished with sin--
1Pe 4:2 in order to live the remaining time in the flesh, no longer for human desires, but for God's will.
- g. Peter ended up dying on an upside down cross for the glory of God.

V. Turning it around!

A. How do we turn around a self centered life to a God honoring life?

1. We need to examine and evaluate what our center and paradigm in what we are doing what we are doing. Ask the Spirit of God to aid in this. If it is off then confess it.
2. Repent and change your paradigm focus! Turn about face!
 - a. Repentance comes from the Greek word **metanoia**- to change the mind

3. Practice a lifestyle of worship. This is not just singing songs. This is living for God's glory in everything you do.
4. Ask the Spirit of God to search out your heart daily.