



BOLD TO SPEAK THE MYSTERY

Volume 1 Issue 10

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The Things of Paul That You Have:

- **LEARNED**
- **RECEIVED**
- **HEARD**
- **SEEN**

DO!
The God of Peace shall be with you!
(Phil. 4:9)

Inside this issue:

God's "How To" for Christian Living	1-5
Do We Make Too Much of the Apostle Paul?	6-7
Church News	8

God's "HOW TO" for Christian Living

This is probably the most important question any believer can ask. How do I walk in a way that is well-pleasing to God, My Glorious Savior and Lord? How? Through the centuries, historical Christianity has come up with all kinds of things we need to do to live out our relationship with God.

I am told that there are hundreds of Christian Living books published every year, thousands are currently in print and millions more have been written over the past 2,000 years. So, let's ask the obvious question. Why has historical Christianity needed to write so many books about "How To" live the Christian life?

The most obvious answer is because the old books haven't worked! Having rejected Paul's distinct apostleship (for the most part), Christianity from its earliest days threw away the full-knowledge of what God is *really* doing today and, there-

fore, cannot *actually* explain "How To" *exactly* walk with Him.

APTAT? REALLY?

Historic Christianity has come up with all kinds of "How To's" for victorious Christian living. One popular preacher sums up the "How To's" for Christian living with the acronym APTAT, which stands for: **ADMIT** that without Christ we can do nothing. **PRAY**, asking God for what we want. **TRUST** by picking a promise from the Bible. **ACT** the miracle. **THANK** God for the good that comes through this process.

Sounds good, doesn't it? Evidently it fills "Christian Living" conferences and sells lots of books. But when we go beneath the surface, we see that while it appears to say everything, it *really* says nothing at all. For instance, what, *actually*, is Christ going to do through us when we admit we are nothing? And when we pray, what, *actually*, are we supposed to pray about and ask for? Just any old thing that comes to mind? Or does God want us to pray in a certain way? And when

(Continued on page 2)

The Witness of the Law and Prophets: Rom. 1:1-4

we claim promises from the Bible, what promises, *exactly*, are we supposed to claim and trust in? Any promise God ever made to anyone in the Bible going all the way back to Adam and Eve? Or are there specific promises God has made especially to us today? If so what, *exactly*, are they?

And what, *actually*, are we doing when we obey God and “act the miracle?” What *exactly* are God’s instructions, and where do we find them in His Word? Or do they come from someplace else? And what does thanking God for the good that comes out of this process, *actually*, mean? What if we can’t see any good? What if everything we see is just plain bad? What then?

THE SHAME OF HISTORICAL CHRISTIANITY

No, when we look beneath the surface and examine these typical “How To’s” of “Christian Living” closer, while they may have the appearance of saying something they *actually* don’t say anything at all. They are just platitudes and clichés, perhaps good for preaching homilies, selling books and presenting at Bible conferences, but not for living where the rubber meets the road of real Christianity. In short, they attempt to tell us what we “should” do but they don’t tell us “how” to do it!

Preachers, for instance, tell us to surrender to the Lord and abide in Christ. But what does that *really* mean? And how, *exactly*, do we do that? We are told that we need to remove all hindrances from our relationship with God by confessing all our sins and ask for forgiveness. ALL our sins? Is that even possible? And if it isn’t, does that mean we can never *really* have an un-

hindered relationship with God?

Others tell us that the key to Christian living is “repentance from the heart?” But what, *exactly*, is that? Is it a sufficiently powerful emotional feeling? Is it shedding a certain number of tears? We are told to pray and ask God for what we want. But what *actually* are we supposed to pray about and ask for? What does God “want” us to “want”? We are told to claim the promises God has made in the Bible. That sounds easy enough, not to mention a lot of fun, but what, *exactly*, are the promises we are to claim for ourselves today? Can we lay claim to any promise God has ever made anybody anywhere in the Bible? Or are there specific promises God has made to us that apply to today? If so, what, *exactly*, are they?

The list goes on and on. Some preachers say we must wait and listen for God’s voice, a still, small voice from deep inside. But how do we know when God is the one *really* speaking? And how do we *actually* hear it? We are told to operate on the basis of the Truth and do everything out of Love. But what, *exactly*, is God’s Body of Truth for us today? And where do we find it in the Bible? And what, *exactly*, does acting in Love mean? Is it a feeling? Sn emotion? Something touchy-feely, goose-pimply? What, *exactly*, is Love?

We are told to renew our minds and transform our thinking. Ok, but what, *exactly*, are we supposed to renew our minds and transform our thinking with? We are told to “live out the teachings of Jesus.” But what, *exactly*, are those teachings? Are they the teachings of the lowly Jesus during His earthly ministry under the Law on behalf of the Nation Israel as recorded in the Gospel Accounts? Or are they the teachings of the Ris-

The Witness of the Law and Prophets: Rom. 1:1-4

en Lord Jesus during His heavenly ministry under Grace on behalf of the Body of Christ as recorded in Paul's Epistles? Or are they some mixture of the two?

Well, you get the point. To its shame, historic Christianity has not been able to tell believers "How To" live the Christian Life because none of their suggestions address the most fundamental question of all: What is God *really* doing today? It is only after we answer that question that we will have sufficient light to go on and answer the question about what, *exactly*, the believer should be doing today.

So, instead of going back to historic Christianity and the traditions of men, let's go back to the Bible itself, starting with one verse in particular written by the Apostle Paul.

THE VERY FIRST STEP OF VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING

Philippians 4:9

Those *things*, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me (Paul), DO: and the God of peace shall be with you.

I know, this verse probably isn't in your Memory Verse Packet, and it wasn't a verse I memorized in Awana years ago, but as far as Christian Living goes, it is one of the most important. Not only does it tell believers "what to do" today, it also tells them "how to do" it! It explains everything.

"What" should we be doing today? The things we have learned and received from Paul (God's spokesman for today). "How" do we do them? The way we have heard and seen Paul do them. Paul gave this instruction to the Philippian believers some 2,000 years ago, and it is still God's "How To" answer for victorious Christian living today. In short, to walk in a

way that is well-pleasing to God today, we must follow Paul. That is the starting point.

Not long ago there was a popular youth movement with the acronym WWJD. This program encouraged people to make life decisions by asking: What Would Jesus Do? According to this program, we are to take the things learned and received, heard and seen in Jesus' earthly ministry on behalf of the Nation of Israel as recorded in the Gospels. But is this the correct acronym for us today? We learn from Paul that today the Risen, Exalted and Glorified Lord Jesus Christ has been Seated at the right hand of the Father in the Heavens. And it is from there that He is now dispensing the Riches of His Grace on behalf of the Body of Christ (Eph. 1-2)? So, which is it?

Phil. 4:9 gives us the answer through a more appropriate acronym for living the Christian life today. Rather than asking: WWJD—What Would Jesus Do? We should be asking: WWPD—What Would Paul Do? Or said another way: WWTRCHUD—What Would The Risen Christ Have Us Do? And we learn what the Risen Christ would have us do from the teachings of Paul.

This is not because Paul is anything in himself. Rather it is that God made Paul into something (2 Cor. 3:4-5), giving to him a distinct apostleship that is not according to Jesus' earthly ministry regarding the Nation of Israel's Prophetic Program but according to the Risen Christ's heavenly ministry with regard to the Body of Christ's Mystery Program. Today, the only way to walk well-pleasing to God is by following Paul because he is the one who is following the *Risen* Christ. Paul blazed the trail 2,000 years ago, and we follow Christ when we follow the path Paul made. This is the only thing that leads us into God's plan for today, and that

The Witness of the Law and Prophets: Rom. 1:1-4

brings us into what He is *really* doing today.

To return to our question then: Why has historic Christianity written millions of books trying to explain how to live the Christian life without providing any real answer? Because in rebellion against God, it has refused to start at God's starting point, the Apostle Paul, thereby disqualifying itself from the very beginning. In rejecting Paul's distinct apostleship, they reject WWPD—What Would Paul Do? And in rejecting WWPD, they also reject WWTRCHUD—What Would The Risen Christ Have Us Do. And in rejecting WWTRCHUD, they have thrown away the source of Resurrection Life and Power for believers today.

The shame of historical Christianity in doing this shouldn't surprise us. It began in the days of Paul himself as is evident in his Letters to the Corinthians, Galatians, and many others. The very "church fathers" that man-made "Christian" religions and theological systems esteem so highly are the same ones who rejected Paul's **Preaching of Jesus Christ According to the Revelation of the Mystery, which had been kept secret since the world began** (Rom. 16:25) from the very beginning. When they rejected that, they rejected what God is *really* doing today and when they did that, they rejected the walk that pleases God, and so have all their followers ever since. Like the Pharisees of old, historic Christianity has replaced God's Truth through the Apostle Paul with the traditions of men in all its varied ignorance.

FOLLOWING PAUL

Philippians 3:17–18

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of

whom I have told you often, and now tell *you* even weeping, *that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.*

The shameful state of much of Historic Christianity began in the days of Paul himself.

1 Corinthians 4:17–18

For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

Previous to this in 1 Cor. 3, Paul explains how to be a workman who is approved of God (as specified in 2 Timothy 2:15) through the use of two metaphors—one having to do with farming and the other having to do with building. In the farming metaphor, he explains that the approved farmer is the one who waters the field that Paul planted with seed of God's Truth (3:6). In the building metaphor, he mentions several things. First, to be an approved builder, believers must follow Paul's building plans because he is the Master Builder (3:10a). Second, to be an approved builder, believers must build on the right foundation, the foundation Paul laid, the foundation of Jesus Christ according to the Revelation of the Mystery (3:10b-11). Third, to be approved builder, believers must use the materials that Paul specified in the building plans (3:12-13).

The only farming and building work God accepts today is the farming and building work learned and received from Paul. The only design work God accepts today is the design work that follows the master plan God gave to the Apostle Paul. And the only materials that will survive the coming Judgment will be the building materials specified

The Witness of the Law and Prophets: Rom. 1:1-4

by Paul. Today, following Paul is the only way to participate in things of infinite and eternal value. (1 Cor. 3:5-18).

With this background in mind, let's return to 1 Cor. 4:17-18. Here Paul introduces someone who is working in accord with what they had learned and received from Paul, Timothy, Paul's right-hand man. Paul makes Timothy the true example of the true pastor/teacher exemplar. The ministry of the true Timothy, and what is the test of every true "Timothy" (pastor and teacher) since, is that their sole job is to remind everyone everywhere everything that Paul taught in every assembly. This is God's definition of true Christianity.

1 Corinthians 11:1-2

Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all *things*, and keep the ordinances, as I (Paul) delivered *them* to you.

What brings praise not only from Paul but from God as well is remembering the Body of Truth God gave to Paul for us. That is what believers have been handed over to today. That is what leads to Righteousness and Life (Rom. 6:17-23). When we follow Paul, we follow Paul's Gospel, the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the Revelation of the Mystery, and when we do that, we follow the Risen Christ (Rom. 16:25), which results not only in praise from Paul, but more importantly from God!

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us ... but wrought with labour and travail night and day ... not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

2 Timothy 3:10 (NKJV)

But you have carefully followed MY (Paul's) doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions ...

The only way to follow God is to follow the Risen Christ, and the only way to follow the Risen Christ is to follow the Apostle Paul, His unique and distinct apostle for today.

CONNECTING THE DOTS

God's beginning point for true Christianity is following Paul. Only that will lead to victorious Christian living that produces a walk that is well-pleasing to God. Let's make this as clear as possible. If the pastor/teacher you are following is not doing this, if he is not following Paul, then he is not following the Risen Christ; and if he is not following the Risen Christ, then he is not following God, and neither are you.

The Answer To Christian Living isn't:

I should be doing something that seems very religious.

Or, even that I should be doing something that seems very biblical.

The only answer acceptable to God is:

I should be following Paul!

To Hear More, click here:
[Paul's Distinct Apostleship](#)

Pt. 1

Do We Make Too Much of Paul?

Many accuse us of making too much of Paul. But the *only* reason we make much of Paul is because GOD makes much of Paul. We challenge you to engage in a life-changing study by making a list of all the verses that refer to Paul, his apostleship, his ministry and his message, and if you do, you will *without a doubt* come to the same conclusion: Paul's Apostleship is distinct from all others. In doing so, you will break through from the uncertain darkness and enter the confident light of what it means to bring glory to God today!!

FIRST A SHORT WORD STUDY

When the Lord Jesus told people to "follow" Him in His earthly ministry to Israel, He used two Greek words: "akoloutheo" and "deute." "Akoloutheo" refers to being a "follower" or "companion," as in: **Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee** (Mat. 4:25). It can also be used metaphorically as in: **Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me** (Mk. 8:34). "Deute" refers to "coming." Many times, it is used as a command as in: **Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men** (Mk. 1:17).

The Apostle Paul, however, doesn't use either of these words. Instead, he uses the Greek word "mimetes," from which we get words like "mimeograph" and "mimic". As a verb it conveys the idea of "copying" someone. As a noun it conveys the idea of becoming "imitators." Believers today are to "copy" what Paul said and "imitate" what he did. Paul gives Timothy as the example: **Be ye followers of me** (Paul) ... **Timothy shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church** (1 Cor. 4:16). Timothy made mental "copies" of all that Paul had taught and did and passed them out to everyone everywhere so that they could become "imitators" of Paul as

well. Words like "example" and "pattern" are closely aligned with our word "mimetes." With this in mind, let's look at some examples where God tells the believer today to FOLLOW PAUL!

GOD SAYS: FOLLOW (IMITATE) THE APOSTLE PAUL!

For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ ... in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel ... I beseech you, be ye FOLLOWERS OF ME (Paul). (1 Cor. 4:15-16)

While the Corinthians in Paul's day (and believing Christianity for the last 2,000 years) have had many teachers, they have only one father in Christ, and that is Paul. Paul became the father of believers through his Gospel, the Gospel of the Grace of God, and the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the Mystery (Rom. 16:25). If you are saved today, you were saved by believing Paul's Gospel, the Good News of the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ. Therefore, Paul is your father in Christ. And like any good son or daughter, we are to follow our father, imitating him, copying him, not just with regard to his conduct and life but most especially with regard to his doctrine and teaching.

But this passage says more than that:

Wherefore I beseech you, be ye FOLLOWERS OF ME (Paul). **For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son ... who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.**
(1 Cor. 4:16-17)

The true pastor, the true Bible teacher, the true "Timothy," is the one who follows

Do We Make Too Much of Paul?

and imitates Paul by reminding everyone everywhere of everything Paul taught in every church! Or put another way: If your Pastor or Bible Teacher or favorite Christian TV or radio host or author isn't teaching what Paul taught, then he is not a true servant of God.

Be FOLLOWERS together of ME, and mark them which walk so as ye have US for an EXAMPLE (pattern). (Phil. 3:17)

The Philippians were true "Grace Believers." They weren't content to just be saved by grace through faith (as wonderful as that is!). They wanted to become active participants in Paul's distinctive *grace* apostleship, and they did so by assisting in its pioneer-advance throughout the world (Phil. 1:3-11), a pattern that "historic Christianity" should have followed in turn but didn't. The Philippians obeyed and served God in the only way He accepts today. They FOLLOWED the PATTERN God made of Paul's ministry, copying and imitating it as they made the moment-by-moment choices of their everyday lives.

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost ... ye became followers of US, and of the Lord, having received the word ... so that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. (1 Thess. 1:5-7)

God preached the Gospel of Grace to the Thessalonians through the Apostle Paul, and when they believed they were instantly and eternally saved. Then they did what every new Christian should do. They followed Paul. In their **work of faith**, they took Paul's teachings, believed them, lived by them and proclaimed them to others, making themselves the Pauline PATTERN for the rest of Macedonia and Achaia to FOLLOW (1 Thess. 1:3, 5-8)! In their labor of love, they turned from idols to serve the living and true God based on the

Agape Love He displayed at the Cross of Christ that Paul proclaimed (1 Thess. 1:3, 9)! In their patience of hope they waited for His Son from Heaven because of the Mystery Truth about the Rapture that Paul proclaimed (1 Thess. 1:3, 10)! The Holy Spirit teaches God's Mystery Truth found in Paul's Epistles, which releases GOD'S INFINITE POWER and produces ETERNAL JOY solely based on Grace and Faith (1 Thess. 1:5-6).

Now we command you ... in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ... withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of US. For yourselves know how ye ought to FOLLOW US... but TO MAKE OURSELVES AN EXAMPLE unto you to FOLLOW US. (2 Thess. 3:6-9)

There you have it! Do we make too much of Paul? No! We only make of Paul what God makes of Paul.

Why Paul?

The answer is very simple: **Be ye FOLLOWERS of me (Paul), even as I also am of Christ!** (1 Cor. 11:1)

God tells us to follow Paul because he is the one who is following Christ today, the Risen Lord Jesus Christ. To follow Paul **is** to follow Christ!

For your further study: 1 Tim. 1:15-16; Phil. 4:9; Rom. 1:1-11; 15:1-20; 1 Cor. 2-3; Gal. 1-2; Eph. 3; Col. 1-2.

To Hear More, click here:
[**Paul's Distinct Apostleship**](#)

Pt. 2

We preach *Christ Crucified*¹; we worship *Jesus Christ According to the Revelation of the Mystery*²; and we study the Bible using the principle of *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*³.

1. 1 Cor. 1:23

2. Rom. 16:25

3. 2 Tim. 2:15

We meet every Sunday morning at the *Rolling Meadows Community Center* located at 3705 Pheasant Dr.

www.gbcm.org

Fellowship and Refreshments: 9:30 - 9:55

Morning Service: 9:55 - 11:15

We have Sunday School for all children

Please visit our website for Directions: [Directions](#)

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All Articles in the Bold To Speak The Mystery Newsletter are by Steve Walker

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