

## Having the mind of Christ--A Recognized Spiritual Mentality

Philippians 2:5, etc.

### I. General Introduction:

- A. The need for a healthy spiritual attitude
- B. The foundation
  1. Acceptance with the Lord
  2. Acceptance of the Lord
- C. The study procedure:
  1. A study of the mindset of the Lord Jesus in Himself
  2. A study of the transfer of that ideology to us.

*you do have agency  
you receive from the Lord of you etc*

### II. The Mind of Christ in Us

- A. The Apostolic Injunction--Philippians 2:5
  1. The apparent problem, Philippians 4
  2. The apostolic plea, Philippians 1
  3. The advanced corrective, Philippians 2
- B. The Mind of Christ
  1. By Definition: It is the pragmatic mentality of humility, obedience, useful service, and constant yieldedness to the Divine will. *Guy King is quoted in MacDonald's commentary giving a more determined concept on the lines of obedient, sacrificial, etc.* It should be obvious that having the Mind of Christ is not just another way of saying being born again.
  2. The Premise: If we have the Mind of Christ we are better suited in every way to witness. to witness, worship, and fulfill the challenge of the Gospel and the Great Commission
  3. The Particular Properties
    - a. The verb "phonero" (in an imperative construction) indicates willingness to show agreement, create harmony, etc. in

1. Our values are the items in life on which we put greater stress. Personality and preference will regulate some of this but we need to survey our values carefully, we may have some that work against our position with Christ as, for example:
  - a. The world, in spite of 1 John 2:15
  - b. The praise of me (well, "people" in this age of political correctness) in spite of 3 John 9
  - c. Self-attainment, in spite of Ecclesiastes 2.
2. Therefore the values of the Lord should be normative for us. We discern them through the Scriptures. Following are some but by no means all:

#### B. Demonstrative Lessons

1. Relationship with the Father: John 8:54; 17; 14 etc.
2. Concern for others: John 18:8; 6:5
3. Understanding of need John 21
4. Attention to order: John 8 (seed, cross, lifted up, etc.) Matthew 6
5. Time: John 2, 9:4-5

Note that I am not overlooking the other Gospels. Luke 12 provides some great illustrations and the whole of the Gospel accounts are gripped with them. There is plenty of material to show that the Mind of Christ in Christ is seen in the values of the Lord. Those values should be transmitted to us as we are joined to the family of God.

#### C. Random Observations

1. Our values are too often earth-centered. When they are such they draw away energies that could be given to spiritual truths and goals. The world system derides spiritual and moral values in many cases and believers must be hardened to face mockery, persecution, etc. for promoting them but in the light of 1 Peter 4...if one suffers as a Christian one should rejoice.
2. Beware that our values are not attached and/or governed by self-attainment.
3. The Mind of Christ will reshape our values to emphasize spiritual truths as being more important and meaningful in our lives and witness.

#### D. Conclusion:

The test of 2 Corinthians 10:5 becomes a watchword in this case although

Briefly it is the way the Lord Jesus relates to the Father and the way in which He carries out the redemptive mission.

2. Our living is the way in which we conduct ourselves. The Word of God outlines this for us---the Mind of Christ enables us to realistically benefit from it.
3. Some conditioning Scriptures in the life of the Lord are these...and there are many others:
  - a. John 15: 13-15.....the relationship (harmony)  
14:16.....the work of living out the harmony
  - b. Matthew 11:28.....the relationship "come unto me"  
the work "In will give you rest."
  - c. 1 Peter 2:21.....the relationship "suffered"  
the work "that we should follow"

#### B. Demonstrative Lessons

1. John 4:4-----He must needs go through Samaria  
He lives to reach
  2. Matthew 5:2-----And He opened His mouth and taught them  
He lives to teach
  3. Luke 9:57-----As they went on the way  
He lived to challenge
- In a multitude of places and conditions the Mind of Christ gave guidance to His way.

*Malcolm*  
*plus*

#### C. Some random observations:

1. We do not study the life of the Lord Jesus Christ to the depth that is most beneficial to us.
2. We easily forget His service, His leadership, and His example
3. We are too engrossed with self...but...

#### D. IN conclusion: God still loves us

The Spirit dwells within us

The Lord Jesus intercedes for us

WE are not saved because we performed well but are saved and empowered to serve by the blessings of the cross. Day by day our delight should surface in "the mind of Christ"--we agree with the Word of God and perform as we are instructed.

### **IV. The Mind of Christ Directs or Demonstrates Our Values**

#### A. Introductory Materials

*self-effacement*

Philippians 2:5 indicates a class of thinking and from it we deduce, for the Lord, the properties of:

- yieldedness
- humility
- obedience
- conformity

- b. The noun "nous" as used in 1 Corinthians 2:16 suggests mental realities in objects, duties, and we note the following:
  - service
  - patterning
  - compliance
- c. There is a reasonable amount of overlap in these two areas of "mind" but the first generally refers to being while the second concentrates on doing. And if the hearer is terribly confused now...it will probably get worse!
- d. We are able to see these worked out in the life of the Lord and in particular phases of His ministry. We see Him at complete harmony with the Divine will while doing the matters found in that will.

*what He was  
what He did*

4. Having the Mind of Christ, therefore, is knowing how to hold a thought process and then to carry it out in practice.

### C. Conclusion

*the concept*

- 1. The Mind of Christ is available
- 2. It is easily missed or neglected however and the following terms will tell us a bit of how this happens:
  - a. selfishness
  - b. personal exorbitant pride
  - c. misplaced ego, etc.
- 3. But the Apostolic injunction is intended for all ages--all Christian communities, every believer's life
- 4. Having the mind of Christ we will properly relate to others and occupy ourselves with the Divine will and the fulfilling of the desires of the Lord in our lives.

*it is important  
we develop a strong  
spiritual mentality*

## III. The Mind of Christ Gives Guidance to Our Lives

### A. Introductory Material

- 1. Knowing what the Mind of Christ is is the key to these talks.

its context is in a different area. The Mind of Christ will, however, bring us to that point where every thought is gathered to honor the Lord and to fulfill His Word.

## **V. The Mind of Christ Enriches our Character and Fulfillment of Duty**

### **A. Introductory Material**

Character is a product of genetics and circumstance hammered out in the forge of life in accord with the grace of God. It is affected by environment and experience. *(There are lots of arguments about this. I am dogmatically asserting it but the Mind of Christ will soften our hardness...it is an unhappy truth that we who preach these things are at times not observant of them. Alas!)* What I am saying is that the items specified are both inherent and developed. The factors that influence these positions are very important and nothing has the greatness of import as does the Mind of Christ. Fulfillment of duty--performance--grows out of character thus the reality and necessity of the Mind of Christ is gripping and available: This is born out of the truth (or truths) that we are new creations----2 Corinthians 5, having the help of the Spirit in understanding ----1 Corinthians 2, and the example of the Lord-----1 Peter 2, and the guidance of the Scripture-----2 Peter 1, 1 Timothy 3. The Mind of Christ enriches all of these and thereby makes both character and fulfillment of duty serviceable to the testimony of God.

In a repetitive mood, we remember that the Lord values the truth, heavenly goals, compassion and care, fellowship with God and man. This is not a complete summary, of course, but a starting point in connection with some of our earlier thinking.

### **B. Demonstrative Lessons (from the life of our Lord)**

1. Personal relationships: Matthew 18 (in difficult areas) the gathering of the twelve in fellowship circles. The words given to John from the cross.
2. Service and serving: Luke 22:14-30, John 13, Mark 10:35. It is somewhat annoying to see that the Lord stresses servanthood and leadership seems to be a result of it...in our modern churches there is a lot more said about leadership than servanthood...and I am dangerously near a pet pique. The Mind of Christ does not allow much room for piques!
3. Reaching out: John 6:5

4. Perseverance: Luke 9:60, John 18:11

C. Random Observations

1. The enrichment of character and duty fulfillment grows from within. Externalism may help but (in my opinion) it rarely causes great or permanent attachments.
2. The Mind of Christ enhances and develops these areas since it works out of the background of a new relationship and a previously unknown authority,

D. Conclusion

“We have the mind of Christ” trumpets the Apostle in 1 Corinthians 2:16 and therefore we may live both spiritually and effectively. It becomes obvious, however, that the Mind of Christ often gets crowded by other things and is not allowed much operative space within us. And that is why the Apostle says...in a commanding way...”Let this mind be in you ..which was also in Christ Jesus.

**VI. Ultimate Conclusion**

The ultimate conclusion is how we honor, yield and seek for the Lord’s preeminence. The “Mind of Christ” is not a purchasable item but a spiritual quality known by the Word of God and understood by a yielded and humble believer. Fleshly perfection is not the goal but spiritual performance in the will of God is the desideratum and the Mind of Christ is the Energizer to that effect. “Let this mind be in you...” Seal off all the things that work to keep it out or diminish its power.

*gives us growth  
teaches us what  
enriches character  
and service*

## Philippians 2. 5- 11

### A. The Structure *(based on a possible literal translation)*

“Let this way of thinking be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being (existing) in the form of God,

- (i) did not regard being on equality with God as something to be grasped tightly and used for His own advantage,
- (ii) but ***made Himself of no account***,
- (iii) *taking* on Him the form of a bond-slave,
- (iv) *becoming* in the likeness of men.

And, being found in fashion as a man,

- (v) He ***humbled Himself***,
- (vi) *becoming* obedient to the extent of death, and that death of a cross.

Wherefore God

- (i) also ***highly exalted Him***,
- (ii) and ***gave Him*** the name above every name:

that in the name of Jesus

- (a) every knee should bow – heavenly, earthly and under the earth; and
- (b) every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father”.

### B. Paul's Five Portraits of the Lord Jesus

1. Our Lord's status and glory *before* He became a man, v. 6.
2. Our Lord's breathtaking descent from His glory and throne to the manger at Bethlehem, vv. 6-7.
3. Our Lord's self-humbling when a man, taking Him down to the fathomless depths of death on a cross, v. 8.
4. That which, in response, God has *already* done for Him, v. 9.
5. That which God has decreed *shall be* done for Him by all others in the future, vv. 10-11.