

Paul – NOT the Happy Modern Christian!

Paul is not to be imitated; he is our ensample, not example!

We can ‘learn’ from Paul but we don’t have to be ‘like’ him!

(modern bibles say imitate God, Jesus, Paul and your pastor’s faith)

Paul had a joy, his heart was comforted, had a great confidence, strong in faith – and was unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; **Col 2:2**

II Timothy 3:11 - *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.*

2Ti 4:14-18 - *Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge. Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever.*

2Ti 4:7 - *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:*

Paul went from almost the worst person in the world to the only apostle to the Gentiles – he most certainly knew all what one could know about the risen Savior – he had met Him face to face.

However...

Paul was NOT the average ‘happy’ modern Christian that everybody says we should be!

1. Great heaviness and continual sorrow in his heart!

Romans 9:1-3 - *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*

2. He was pressed in the spirit

Acts 18:4-6 - *And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.*

3. He was so pressed out of measure, above strength that he despaired even of life

2Co 1:8 - *For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:*

4. He knew his real self – not the other stuff of the world!

Romans 7:23-25 - *For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

5. Don't think too highly of yourself!

Romans 12:3 - *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

6. Think soberly

1Th 5:8 - *But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.*

7. You think you are so spiritual? Acknowledge Paul's stuff!

I Cor 14:37,38 - *If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

8. Despise religion, etc.

Go ahead - Despise your previous – and other religion! Know the pastor's real status in God's eyes; be aware of the devil's power in the music; realize that it is just a social business today, etc. Synagogues of Satan – false OT doctrine – doctrines of devils – helping prepare Satan's army for **Rev 19!**

Acts 19:26,27 - *Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought;1 but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.*

Conclusion:

I think most people today are highminded because they seek happiness, riches, etc...

...they err from the faith because they are trusting in their own uncertain riches, they have no clue about true Biblical teaching and design of the living God. They err not knowing the Scriptures!

1Ti 6:17, *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

They are wise in their own deceits!

Romans 11:25 - *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel,*

Because they just want to be happy and enjoy the ways of the world and with today being the dispensation of the grace of God, they are easily deceived because the 'only' way they will know the truth of their life and living is from a rightly divided King James Bible...

...and from Paul!

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

Or...

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

We were without Christ, we were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers from the covenants of promise and having no hope and without God in the world. But now we are not only saved by being made nigh by blood of Christ. And to make sure of it all, we have the King James Bible – the very words of God, inspired and preserved to us as He promised. We certainly have every opportunity to know all what one could know about the risen Savior – in many ways, we have also met Him face to face. We should also know that even trying to live godly will bring persecution in many different ways. ***Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. II Timothy 2:3***