

THE WORLD'S BIBLE #3

By Keith Greer

“MAGNIFYING CHRIST”

Paul wrote: "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." (Philippians 1:20)

This is one of many such statements by the apostle concerning his desire to live in such a way as to glorify and honor the Lord Jesus Christ. Surely, his example in this area should be a great incentive to us to do the same.

I feel sure that this question has arisen in your mind: "How can Christ be magnified, since He is the perfect Savior and Son of God?" Of course, it is impossible to actually "magnify" Him, or make Him better than He is, but let us examine the word more carefully and we will be able to see the significance.

When you look through a magnifying glass, you don't make the object larger — it just looks larger to you. In like manner, all Christians are to think, speak, and act in such a way as to magnify the Lord in the eyes of others.

In another book, Paul used another figure of speech to illustrate the same principle. In Titus 2:10, he gave instructions to slaves in these words: "Not purloining (stealing), but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things." There is no way that you and I can adorn (that is beautify or make attractive) the gospel of Christ, for it is already the "perfect law of liberty," (James 1:25) But we can conduct our lives in such a manner that the gospel will be made more attractive to those who are living in sin.

Thus, the way we live is to be a means of magnifying Christ and of adorning His doctrine. Ask yourself this question: "Am I drawing people to the Lord, or am I driving them further away by the way I speak, dress and act in my daily life?"

Are You “Magnifying” or “Minimizing” Christ?

In Matthew 12:30, Jesus told the Pharisees, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." According to this passage, we will either do one or the other! Are we concerned enough to magnify and honor Christ? Or, shall we "minimize" His life by our conduct?

We often sing the song, "Into Our Hands:". "How are we using God's golden moments? Shall we reap glory? Shall we reap tears? Haste, let us carry God's precious message, GUIDING THE ERRING BACK TO THE RIGHT." Can we guide them "back to the right" if our conduct is the same as the world's? "We are the only Bible the careless world will read."

Christians have an awesome duty before God to set the proper examples before a world lost and dying in sin. How is this accomplished? Proper conduct of how they should be living their lives in accordance with His divine will should be seen in our lives.

Please consider these two questions soberly in our own lives: Does the way I live clearly demonstrate that I'm seeking God's kingdom first in my life? (Matthew 6:33) Does my life clearly demonstrate that I value the eternal things above the temporal things of life here on earth? (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

Dear reader, make no mistake we are either teaching the world the proper lessons or we are confusing them by living hypocritical lives. Every Christian's life is teaching those who observe that life something about Christ. We need to be sure the lessons we're giving them are magnifying the Christian life not minimizing it. Which is in your life? ***