

Series: Standfast in the Lord

# CHRIST SHALL BE MAGNIFIED

PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26

Text: Philippians 1:20

## ***Philippians 1:20***

<sup>20</sup> *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.*

Introduction:

What an amazing desire that these words speak.

Understand that as Paul penned these words he is sitting in a prison cell, not for committing a crime but for preaching the gospel.

If anyone may be justified in being upset or even becoming somewhat bitter it might have been Paul.

But Paul didn't complain about his circumstances, but rather Paul explained that clarified that he didn't want to be ashamed in nothing, but rather Christ should be magnified, whether he lived or died.

Wow what an amazing statement.

He desired the Christ be magnified.

If only believers could actually live every moment with eternity in view—it would change our lives.

Sermon Content:

## **1. 1. THE DESIRE TO MAGNIFY CHRIST**

It is clear from this statement the Paul' desire was to magnify Christ.

This wasn't always the case with Paul.

There was a time that Paul boasted about all of his accomplishments.

There was a time that Paul persecuted the church.

But now Paul's desire was to magnify Christ.

Note the words that John spoke:

### **John 3:30**

<sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

This was John's great desire and goal.

In this sentence John the Baptist tells his disciples that it is right and proper and necessary that Christ should

grow in dignity, honor and magnification and that he himself should be less thought of.

- He was only the servant; Christ was the Master.
- He was only the forerunner and ambassador, Christ was the King.
- He was only the morning star; Christ was the Sun.

John was determined that in all things that Christ would be the preeminent One the honored One and the magnified One.

Can we say that this is our desire today?

If we are honest this is something that each of us struggle with at times.

This leads us to consider secondly:

## **2. THE DUTY TO MAGNIFY CHRIST**

Certainly our desire should be to magnify Christ, and there is greater joy if this is our desire, but if it is not it doesn't eliminate it as being our duty.

The very first commandment given we read

**Exodus 20:1-3**

*<sup>1</sup> And God spake all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup> I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>3</sup> Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

God says that He will have no other gods before Him.

- Too often we magnify self over the Saviour.
- Too often we magnify our problems over His power.
- Too often we magnify our crisis over Christ.
- Too often we magnify our pleasure over His preeminence.

Certainly it should be our desire to magnify the Lord but if our desire isn't right it is still our duty.

Remember there will be a day where every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

Note Philippians 2:9-11

### ***Philippians 2:9-11***

*<sup>9</sup> Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup> That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; <sup>11</sup> And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

This leads us to consider thirdly:

## **3. THE DEMANDS OF MAGNIFYING CHRIST**

We have considered the desire to magnify Christ, and certainly this should be our desire, but if this isn't our desire it still doesn't eliminate its demand.

But what are the requirements or demands of magnifying the Lord.

Understand this is done through:

### **A. Purity of Life**

Illustration:

The camera lens must be pure or clean to give a good image.

If the quality of the lens is bad, the picture will be blurred.

Our lives must be clean and pure to magnify Christ correctly.

A special cloth is used in cleaning the lens of the camera.

Our lives require special cleaning that comes from God's word.

***John 15:3***

*<sup>3</sup> Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

As we read God's word, it reveals specks of dust and spots of grime in our life.

This is why He leads the believer in the paths of righteousness.

It's not so that someone may speak flattering words about us but rather His namesake.

***Psalm 23:3***

*<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: **he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.***

Again it about magnifying Him not elevating ourselves.

Not only must there be a purity of life in order to magnify the Lord but also:

## B. Pattern of Life

We must pattern our life after the Lord.

Illustration:

When the craftsman grinds the camera lens, extreme care is take.

There can be not defects in the glass.

Christ is our example.

Often people pattern their life after some celebrity, athlete or some entertainer.

But we should pattern our life after Christ.

He is our example.

Our lives like the camera lens is polished is several ways.

We saw that our lives are cleaned through the word but often in addition to dust, dirt and grime there are area that need polishing and sanding.

That is accomplished sometimes through:

- Hardship
- Trials and Testing
- Chastisement

Quote: Spurgeon once said:

I owe more to the fire, and the hammer, and the file, than to anything else in my Lord's workshop.

How true.

It's often in the fire that the impurities are removed.

None of us enjoy the heat or the fire – but it is here that often God uses in our life.

None of us enjoy the hammer or the file – but again these are often the tools that God uses in our life.

Christ suffered like no other man.

Illustration: Horatio G. Spafford

Tears and tragedy were not strangers to Horatio G. Spafford, a successful lawyer and businessman in Chicago.

He had a lovely family - a wife, Anna, and five children.



Their young son died with pneumonia in 1871, and in that same year, much of their business was lost in the great Chicago fire.

Yet, God in His mercy and kindness allowed the business to flourish once again.

Plans were made for their family to take a trip to Europe in 1873 via a French steam ship.

Horatio accompanied his family to New York but at the last minute had to change his plans because of a business issue that had come up.

Spafford told his wife and children to go ahead and that he would join them in a few days when the business situation was corrected.

About four days into the crossing of the Atlantic, the vessel that Spafford's wife Ann and his four daughters collided with a Scottish ship.

Suddenly, all of those on board were in grave danger.

Anna brought her four children to the deck.

She knelt there with Annie, Margaret Lee, Bessie and Tanetta and prayed that God would spare them.

Within about 12 minutes the vessel sank carrying with it 226 of the passengers.

Included in those who drowned were the four Spafford children.

A sailor, rowing a small boat over the spot where the ship went down, spotted a woman floating on a piece of the wreckage.

It was Anna Spafford, still alive.

He pulled her into the boat, and they were picked up by another vessel which, nine days later, landed them in Wales.

It was from there she wired her husband a message which stated "Saved alone, what shall I do?"

Mr. Spafford booked passage on the next available ship and left to join his grieving wife. With the ship about four days out, the captain called Spafford to his cabin and told him that they were over the place where his children went down.

According to Bertha Spafford Vester, a daughter born after the tragedy, Horatio went to his cabin and penned these words to this now well-known song of which two verses haven't been included in most books.

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—  
My sin, not in part but the whole,  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:  
If Jordan above me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,  
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!  
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

Chorus:

It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Through this great tragedy, many have been encouraged – because Christ was magnified not blamed.

If we are going to magnify Christ we there must be Purity in our Lives and we must Pattern our Lives after Christ.

Also note we must have a:

### C. Proper Focus to Christ

If the photographer doesn't have a good focus with the camera, unclear pictures will result.

The life of the believer must keep the right focus.

Note Hebrews 12:

## **Hebrews 12:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

*<sup>2</sup> Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Looking unto Jesus will help us magnify Jesus.

It seemed that Isaiah shifted his focus to the godly king.

But the king died.

Note what we read in Isaiah 6:

## **Isaiah 6:1-8**

*<sup>1</sup> In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. <sup>3</sup> And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. <sup>4</sup> And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.*

*<sup>5</sup> Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a*

*people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. <sup>6</sup> Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: <sup>7</sup> And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. <sup>8</sup> Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*

He now was not seeing a king but The King the Lord of Host.

Close:

Paul's desire should be our desire.

***Philippians 1:20***

*<sup>20</sup> 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.*

That Christ should be magnified whether in life or in death.

May we not allow things in our lives which bring with it shame.