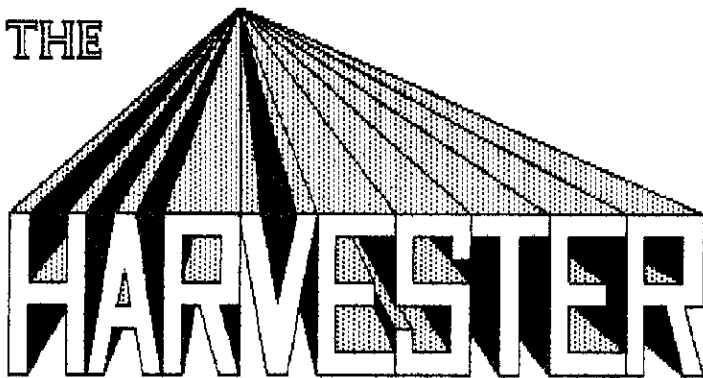


THE



*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

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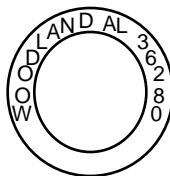
## THE MIND OF CHRIST

In everything that Jesus Christ did, He left us examples to follow and it is our duty to imitate them. The apostle Peter explained this in 1 Peter 2:21: *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."* John added: *"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked."* (1 John 2:6)

However, this idea does not apply only to our actions but also to our thoughts.

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How did Paul put it? *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 2:5). That means we should think like Christ thinks. Our thoughts should be patterned after God's way of thinking. Truly that is a difficult challenge according to Isaiah 55:8,9. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* But what if we had some insight into God's mind? Is it really possible? Yes, the scriptures do give us some clues into this mysterious realm. There are five beautiful adjectives which describe the mind of Christ: alive, peaceful, single-minded, lowly, and pure.

Romans 8:6 tells us that God's mind is eternal life, that is, alive! *"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* [Some translations use 'the mind of the Spirit' instead of 'spiritually minded.'] Our mind should likewise be alive and full of the abundant life which Jesus came to this earth to give us (John 10:10). A living and quickening (alive) mind will always choose spiritual matters over fleshly things. *"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit"* (Rom. 8:5).

The second adjective which illustrates the mind of Christ is peaceful. Notice Roman 8:6 again. *"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."* During His time on earth, Jesus always sought peace.

When the situation appeared most volatile, His thoughts were always geared toward peaceful solutions. A Christian will display a similar mind set. He will seek *"the things which belong unto thy peace!"* (Luke 19:42). He will seek God in all things because God is the author of peace (1 Cor. 14:33).

Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 11:3 that being single-minded is another quality of Christ's mind. *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."* A "single-minded" mind is one of simplicity. It is not easily led astray nor distracted from its goal. Simply, it has one purpose and one duty. A Christian who has the mind of Christ will "steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Lk. 9:51) and not be deterred until He has completed the work God gave Him to do (John 17:4), although it might mean certain death.

The fourth description of Christ's mind is that it is meek and lowly. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul wanted the brethren to share his mind just as he looked to Christ for his example. *"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."* (Phil. 2:2,3) Jesus was a carpenter. His friends were fishermen, tax collectors and common people. In the end He submitted to a criminal's death. In all things, Jesus was lowly. Similarly, Christians need to

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have that same degree of humility in order to appreciate the blessings from God. Having a lowly mind leads to a humble attitude.

Finally, the New Testament also speaks of the purity of the mind. *"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."* (Titus 1:15) Here we see the distinction between the believer's mind (the mind of Christ) and the unbeliever's mind. One is pure and the other is defiled. Because Christ's mind was pure and void of any corruption, His disciples should strive for the same mind. Their thoughts should not be filled with filthy lusts but *"whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* (Phil. 4:8).

In Philipians 2:5 we are instructed to have the mind of Christ. His mind is

alive, peaceful, single-minded, lowly and pure. Does this describe our mind, too?

RAY McMANUS

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. According to Proverbs 27, what is better than secret love?
2. Who did Naaman go to first to find a cure for his leprosy?
3. Where did Jesus perform His first miracle?
4. Who slew 600 Philistines with an ox goad?
5. According to Paul, who will suffer persecution?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. What was the belly of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream made of? BRONZE (Dan. 2:32)
2. In which city was there an altar to the unknown god? ATHENS (Acts 17:16+)
3. Who ate locusts and wild honey? JOHN THE BAPTIST (Matt. 3:4)
4. What price did Saul ask David to pay in order to marry his youngest daughter? 100 PHILISTINE FORESKINS (1 Sam. 18:25)

5. Who wrote down Paul's letter to the Romans? TERTIUS (Rom. 16:22)

## LOTS TO THINK ABOUT

An interesting prayer was given recently in Kansas at the opening session of their Senate in 2000. It seems prayer still upsets some people.

When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the new session of the Kansas Senate with a prayer, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

“Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, “Woe to those who call evil good” but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and call it “pluralism”.

We have worshiped other gods and called it “multiculturalism”;

We have endorsed perversion and called it “alternative lifestyle”;

We have exploited the poor and called it “the lottery”;

We have rewarded laziness and called it “welfare”;

We have killed our unborn and called it “choice”;

We have shot abortionists and called it “justifiable”;

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it "building self-esteem";  
We have abused power and called it "politics";  
We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it "ambition";  
We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it "freedom of expression";  
We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it "enlightenment".

"Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent to direct us to the center of Your will, to open our hearts and ask it in the name of Your Son, the living Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen."

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa, and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on "The Rest of the Story" on the radio and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and whole heartedly become our desire, that we again can be called 'one nation under God.'

-- Selected --

## THE DAY YOU WERE BAPTIZED

In the past few years I've witnessed several that have asked these questions in sermons or in articles: "Do you remember the feeling you experienced the day you were baptized? Remember how clean you felt, how close to God you felt? Remember how on fire you were for the cause of Christ that day?"

The day we obey the Gospel is a wonderful day -- a day that should be remembered with joyful feelings! However, I don't think that this day is the pinnacle of the closeness to God we experience in our Christian lives. Remember, baptism is a new birth, a beginning. We are to grow in all areas, especially in our relationship with Christ.

Also remember, the day we are baptized is only one day in the Christian walk. We still have to choose whether to serve sin or the Savior every day thereafter. I believe the more time we spend studying the Word, the more we will appreciate Christ's sacrifice and the promise of Heaven. The more time we spend in prayer, the more we will feel His presence in our lives. The more time we spend giving God the glory and praise He deserves through our songs, words, and deeds, the more we will feel the joy of being a Christian.

The feeling of "the day we were baptized" is wonderful, but there is richer closeness to God that we can experience. It takes effort on our part -- serving Him with our lives -- to achieve it. (James 4:8)

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