

Message Five

**A Man of Prayer—a God-man  
Who Pursues Christ, Lives Christ, and Magnifies Christ**

Scripture Reading: Phil. 3:10; 1:19-21a; 4:12-13; 1:9; 4:6

**I. The practical way to live a life according to the high peak of the divine revelation is to be a God-man—Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:20-21a:**

- A. Christ, the first God-man, made Himself a prototype for the mass reproduction of many brothers—the many God-men—Rom. 8:29:
  - 1. Christ, being both God and man and having both the divine life and the human life, lived a life of humanity, not by His human life but by His divine life—John 5:19.
  - 2. Christ died to Himself that He might live to the Father and that He might live out the divine attributes as His human virtues—v. 30; 8:28.
  - 3. Christ, living always under the cross in His life on earth, expressed not Himself but the Father—14:9-10.
- B. The believers in Christ, as the brothers of Christ, the many God-men, need to live a life which is a copy, a reproduction, of the life of Christ—1 Pet. 2:21:
  - 1. The intrinsic significance of following Jesus is to become a xerox copy of the first God-man; therefore, to follow Jesus is to live the life of a God-man.
  - 2. The many God-men need to live a life of bearing the cross in the steps of Christ—Matt. 16:24; 1 Pet. 2:21.
  - 3. The many God-men should die to themselves and live to God—2 Cor. 5:15; Gal. 2:19.
  - 4. A life of dying to ourselves and living to God is for Christ, the first God-man, to be formed in His many brothers, the many God-men, for the building up of His organic Body that the eternal economy of God might be carried out—4:19; Eph. 4:16.

**II. The book of Philippians unveils the living of a God-man who pursues Christ, lives Christ, and magnifies Christ—3:10; 1:19-21a; 4:12-13:**

- A. The first aspect of the living of a Christ-pursuing God-man is to pursue to know Christ—3:10a.
- B. The life of a Christ-pursuing God-man is a life of pursuing to know the power of Christ's resurrection—v. 10b.
- C. A God-man lives daily under the cross; hence, the life of a Christ-pursuing God-man is a life of pursuing to die with Christ to be conformed to His death by the power of His resurrection—Rom. 6:6; Matt. 16:24; 1 Cor. 15:31; Phil. 3:10.
- D. The life of a Christ-pursuing God-man is a life of living Christ to magnify Him through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—1:19-21a.
- E. A Christ-pursuing God-man lives in the empowering Christ and by taking Christ as the secret in everything—4:12-13.

- F. A Christ-pursuing God-man overcomes the negative things in Philippians: rivalry, murmurings and reasonings, seeking our own things, evil workers, confidence in the flesh, anxiety, and want—1:17; 2:3, 14, 21; 3:2, 4-8; 4:6, 11.
- G. If we live the life of a God-man in resurrection, a genuine revival will be brought forth from within us; this will be an unprecedented revival, a revival that has never occurred in the history of the church—Hab. 3:2; Hosea 6:2.

**III. To pray without ceasing by calling on the Lord's name is to live Christ—1 Thes. 5:17; Rom. 10:12-13; Phil. 1:21a:**

- A. By calling on the name of the Lord, we automatically take Him as our life and spontaneously live Him—Rom. 10:12-13; Col. 3:4.
- B. If we pray, breathing in Christ as our life, we will not do things by ourselves, apart from Christ; instead, by praying without ceasing, we will live Christ.
- C. “This I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in full knowledge and all discernment”—Phil. 1:9:
  - 1. The Philippian believers' love needed to abound more and more, not foolishly but in discernment, not in ignorance but in full knowledge, that they might prove by testing the things which differed.
  - 2. The knowledge and discernment in 1:9 are Christ Himself; when we experience Christ, He becomes our knowledge and discernment.
- D. “I know that...this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ”—1:19:
  - 1. If we join verses 7 and 19, we will see that “your petition” indicates the supply of the Body.
  - 2. The reason that Paul speaks of the supply of the Body before the bountiful supply of the Spirit is that the Spirit is upon the Body—Psa. 133:
    - a. Paul realized that as a member of the Body, he needed the supply of the Body.
    - b. If the Body would be exercised to supply him, the bountiful supply of the Spirit would come to him through the Body.
- E. “In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”—Phil. 4:6:
  - 1. Prayer involves conversing with the Lord, communicating with Him in fellowship, and worshipping Him.
  - 2. The Greek *pros* in the phrase “to God” denotes motion toward, in the sense of a living union and communion, implying fellowship:
    - a. “To God” conveys the thought of motion toward some object which produces a transaction in the sense of a living union.
    - b. The meaning of “to God” here is *in the fellowship with God*; we should let our requests be made known to God in such a fellowship, in such a union and communion.
  - 3. If we ask the Lord about everything and talk with Him in everything, we will receive the Lord's element into us, a divine metabolism will work in us, and Christ will be expressed through us; this is to live Christ.
  - 4. We need to practice speaking to the Lord constantly; then spontaneously we will live Christ.