



les that follow the plow :: This testimony was the vessel of the Lord for my sanctification: wept at work li

This testimony was the vessel of the Lord for my sanctification: wept at work listening - posted by ESchaible, on: 2023/

This is true testimony to the work of God, and the Spirit bears witness stronger in my heart when hearing this than any testimony I have heard in my 20 years as a believer. May it bless you as well.

July, 1980

Dear Brother Norman,

Thank you very much for making yourself available to come and stay with us. We so appreciated your fellowship and your showing us the way of God more perfectly.

Every day is such a wonderful experience in unbroken fellowship and communion with the Father. That was how He meant it to be from the beginning. I know that I am one with Him, and that I am no longer I, but Christ living in me, in my human form. And the thrilling thing is that I can do absolutely nothing to deserve or merit Him. I used to think that the Christian life was wrapped up in rules and regulations, dos and donâ€™ts, laws and commandments, and daily disciplines. Thatâ€™s religion - manâ€™s way of being one with Him. Iâ€™ve discovered that on the cross He said, "It is finished." He settled it forever, once and for all! I am complete in Him by virtue of Him in me and as me. There is absolutely nothing I can do to add to the righteousness of God in my life. Everything that Christ is, I am - justified, sanctified, glorified, etc. (Rom. 8:30, 1 Cor. 1:2). Oh, what a wonderful mystery! One with the Father! So many know only the saving knowledge of Christ by His blood for the forgiveness of sins, and so very few know the replaced life through His resurrected and ascended body, of victory, joy, peace, overcoming, triumph, and complete rest. It is now my everyday continual experience that in fact I am a new creature, where old things are passed away and all things are become new. God intended only for His life to be manifested in us. Satan no longer has any foothold in me and sin no more power, no more dominion over me. Condemnation is a thing of the past that no longer plagues me.

In reality, our becoming born-again puts us in the same standing with God the Father as Jesus being born of a virgin!

As I know who I really am, there is only victory in Christ. When trials and afflictions come, itâ€™s only God putting His Christ through such circumstances in life to bring forth life in others. I have been bought with a price... His precious blood, and am no longer my own. I am now for others. I am now the express image of the very nature and character of God in the earth. It is written that God has "created all things for His pleasure." At first thought that sounds selfish, until one realizes that His pleasure is that of giving His all. Heâ€™s not looking for something to get from us to fulfill His desires or to please Himself, but rather His pleasure is to give. That has now become my pleasure and purpose in life. I no longer look to God for what I can get out of Him for me. My nature is now His and that is to give. Now as I give, itâ€™s with the understanding that He first gave to me. He is my source. "I love Him because He first loved me."

With that in mind, trials and afflictions are a pleasure because they are for the benefit of others. I used to think trials and afflictions were the "dealings of God" to perfect me, to sanctify me, to improve me - me, me, me. But Iâ€™ve discovered that Jesus completed the work of redemption, sanctification, and perfection: "He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." God is no longer interested in dealing with me, but that the world through me might be saved. As long as we think trials and afflictions are for us as the dealings of God, we will forever be trying to get our lives in order and disciplined in order to reach that unobtainable goal of perfected self. We become very self-centered, self-assessing, self-disciplined. Iâ€™ve given up once and for all that self-assessing life, realizing the finished work He has done.

When Jesus said, "Be ye perfect, even as your Father...", He did not set an impossible standard for us. He accomplished the work of perfection at Calvary and it is found only in the replaced life. It is actually possible to fulfill all of Matthew 5, 6, 7 without even trying. It is possible to live a life free of sin. "As He is, so are we in this world." How can I say He hath perfected Me? Because it is no longer I that live, but Christ!

When we can welcome and embrace circumstances joyfully and with thanksgiving, we can endure all things and become (as you have well put it. Brother Norman), co-saviors with Christ. I am now crucified to the world and the world to me that the world I come in daily contact with might be saved. I die daily for the benefit of others, that life might spring forth in them. God has ordained difficulties and seemingly evil circumstances to happen to us for the express purpose of Christ being made manifest to others.

Knowing these things, the life of God becomes reality. We live by faith, not by sight, nor by feeling or circumstances. We live by that which is eternal and unseen, not by the physical, lying vanities around us. We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. This world is no longer our home. We are simply pilgrims passing through.

The world of faith becomes more real to us than the physical world that we see and touch and smell and taste and hear, with our five senses. Faith establishes the word of God as fact, as evidence, as substance, as already accomplished. The promises of God are in Him "yea," and in Him "Amen" - by us! All we do is say "Yes" and "Amen" to what God has already said, and it is so! When we live by faith, it doesn't matter what happens around us. We no longer judge things by outward appearance, but we judge righteously. This is where life becomes fun and exciting and full of victory as we let God be the judge in life, and we live by the unseen, eternal reality!

As life becomes a walk of faith, we then see everything with a "single eye." Jesus said our eye is either single or evil. One or the other. To see double is to see evil. Adam and Eve partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They then saw with double vision. They then became judges in life rather than leaving that to God. The devil very subtly fooled them by saying, "You shall become as gods, knowing good and evil," when in fact the Father wanted them to be gods. We are always trying to become something when in fact we are simply to be the "I am" within us. It's so simple that it's complex! When we look at everything in life as good or evil, we become the judges (as God), always classifying everything in one category or another. We become bitter, frustrated, judgmental in life. There is no joy, no peace, no rest.

To see with a single eye is to have a pure heart. That's why Jesus said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Paul also speaks of living our lives in "singleness of heart." When we have a pure heart, walking in singleness of heart, with a single eye, we see only God in everything. Every circumstance, every problem, trial, affliction, seemingly evil thing, is the manifestation of God to us. We can flow with and be in harmony with everything that takes place, and be at peace with God and every man. Proverbs says, "There shall no evil happen to the just." Knowing this, life is exciting! It is fun! When we see God only in life, we can truly give thanks in and for everything!

There is such an emphasis today on getting and keeping "the presence of God" in one's life. I also once strived and struggled and cried out to God through daily disciplines to get the "manifested presence" of God. I thought the presence of God was dependent upon what I did. I have since thrown all of that out of the window forever, realizing now that I in fact am the presence of God, the Holy of Holies, the temple of the Holy Ghost. I no longer have to go running around striving to get His presence in my life. I am the manifested presence of God, even as Jesus was upon earth in His flesh. I am the will of God in the earth, that the world though me might be saved by virtue of Him that dwells permanently within me. As Christ is lifted up, He will draw all men unto Himself - by us.

Psalm 22:3 says, "But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." I've always thought that the way to get His presence was to praise Him and then He would come down and inhabit my praise and manifest Himself to me. But that's the God of the Old Covenant, the God of "I

nfluence," or as the world calls it, a philosophy. Most people look at God as an "influence": "Here I am down here, and there You are, God, up there; and if I do certain things and fulfill certain principles. Youâ€™ll come down with Your presence and bless me." Even the world lives by that philosophy, feeling theyâ€™ll be blessed by doing and fulfilling certain principles in life. Israel, an unregenerate people, lived by that principle. But because God is self-giving, He doesnâ€™t expect anything out of us. I donâ€™t have to fulfill anything to get His presence. My God is not a God of influence, but Heâ€™s a God that has taken permanent residence. He has taken permanent abode in me. The veil was rent on ce and for all from the top to the bottom, opening the way into the Holy of Holies whereby I freely partake of His presence... no strings attached. Because of that, praise is now a natural, free, flowing, continual expression unto Him. Praise becomes as natural as breathing, and is a state of being and not an act. Our lives can simply be a praise to Him (Eph. 1:12). The act of vocal and demonstrative praise simply flows out of that state of being in which I find myself - that of union with Him, one and the same with Him. I no longer know a God coming and going, a life of ups and downs according to whether I praise Him or not. There is such a higher realm where He becomes you and you become Him and are one with the Father.

The organized church today is, by and large, a modern Mosesâ€™ Tabernacle, trying to fulfill certain principles, rules and regulations, dos and donâ€™ts, laws and commandments, and daily disciplines in order to get the presence and approval of God. Thatâ€™s fine, as long as one does all that; but Scripture says that no one can keep the law. It also says that whoever does the law must also live in it. Youâ€™re blessed if you can do it, but cursed if you canâ€™t. (Iâ€™ve been trying for thirteen years, but never could.) Besides that, even if one could keep all the principles, laws, disciplines, etc., there is room for pride saying, "Iâ€™ve done it." But God will share His glory with no man. There is absolutely nothing we can do to merit His presence or approval; neither does God expect us to do anything to obtain it, because of His very self-giving nature.

It is the tangible, felt, manifested presence of God that the organized church is looking for today. Theyâ€™ll never find it though, and only become frustrated in the process, because Jesus said, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation, but behold, the kingdom of God is within you." It is a wicked and adulterous generation that seeketh for a sign, a manifestation of God. Once again, the signs and manifestations will automatically and naturally follow them that believe. It will be a natural outflow of who we are and not what we do.

For years I have been asking God for a great hunger and thirst for Him. I felt that the more hunger and thirst I had, the more God would come to me. I now realize Iâ€™ve been wasting my time and energy. But as I now understand who He is within me, I am full, I am satisfied, my thirst is quenched, my hunger is gone. Even as the Scriptures declare, out of my belly, my innermost being, flow rivers of living water. Jesus said, "He that drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst." He said, "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." He also said, "He that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." There is an end! That end is Christ! I no longer hunger or thirst. I now only know a permanently satisfied, fulfilled life in Christ - full and overflowing for the benefits of others.

Iâ€™ve given up trying to improve my life. All I have to do is to be who I really am, which is Christ in me. If I may be so bold, I am a god, created in His very image with the indwelling Christ my all. Itâ€™s no longer I that live, yet it is I, yet not I, but Christ. No wonder Paul calls it a mystery! Jesus was the firstborn among many brethren. He came as a Son to be an intercessor to bring many sons to glory. Paul said, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus," the "mind" of total self-emptying, and then spoke of Jesusâ€™ exaltation. I, too, am to have this intercessory mind of total self-emptying to take humanityâ€™s lowest place on the cross. And any exaltation that follows will be from God.

After years of struggling and striving, frustration and failure (a necessary step!), I have finally ceased from my own works and entered into rest. Oh, what fellowship divine, what communion, what rest! I know Him, even as I am known of Him. I used to work so hard at being a Christian... and, as a result, God was at rest. Now Iâ€™m at rest and Heâ€™s at work! In this rest, prayer becomes a state of being. Itâ€™s no longer an act of formality. Itâ€™s continual communion and fellowship with the Father. Then and only then is it possible to fulfill the scripture "Pray without ceasing."

I have come to a realization that it was not / that committed myself to Him. It was He that committed Himself to me. My spiritual life is dependent upon His total commitment to me. As long as I think that my walk with God depends upon my decision, my dedication, my commitment to Him, then life becomes a never-ending parade of recommitment, rededication, reconsecration to Him. In reality, however, the Christian life is dependent on replacement.

Hallelujah, it is wonderful in Him! The best Bible college there is is life itself! "For me to live is Christ." Our mission on earth is to live and to be the Christ to an unregenerate world around us.

I have concluded in my life that it is absolutely impossible to live the Christian life, and that God never intended us to do so. He intended the Christ within us to live it. Then and only then is it possible to fulfill the law and the spirit of the law (Matt. 5,6,7). And it only comes as a revelation from the Father. Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter said, "Thou art the Christ." Jesus told him, "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven." Jesus then told Peter, "Upon this rock I will build My church." Paul said that "the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." Many try to build the church upon principles, upon teachings, upon everything imaginable except the Christ. But "except the Lord build the house, they that build it labor in vain." It is upon this revelation of the Christ that life is fun. Life is exciting, fulfilling, and wonderful. Oh what fellowship, what communion, what victory! Hallelujah to Him forever!

I'm sure I'm repeating to you many things that you've already grasped years ago. But I appreciate your listening ear... to be able to repeat these things to you as they are revealed to me. I love you, Brother Norman. Thank you for your love and rich fellowship.

One with Him and you,

Christopher Bernard

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2023/7/1 12:11

ESchaible,

Quote:

----- How can I say He hath perfected Me? Because it is no longer I that live, but Christ!

Why then did Paul say:

Phil. 3:12-14 'â€'

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Note that Paul wrote this toward the end of his earthly life.

Quote:

----- God has ordained difficulties and seemingly evil circumstances to happen to us for the express purpose of Christ being made manifest to others.

But Scripture says:

Heb. 12:10-11 'â€'

He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:12

Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

FAITH AND LIFE

Why did Paul tell Timothy:

1 Tim. 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called.

Note that Paul wrote this letter toward the end of his ministry and Timothy was not a new believer.

Blessings

Re: - posted by ESchaible, on: 2023/7/1 17:16

I sincerely don't see the discrepancies. Maybe I am dim, but all I can say to the scripture you posted is Amen dear brother/sister (I don't know which).

I, like Paul look forward to our final perfection as well as rejoice at the fact that Jesus has perfected me now, in this life. I revel in the promises of God to us as saints, all of them are real and true. I have the mind of Christ, the will of God, the desires of God, the presence of God, the fullness of the Godhead bodily, because as the promises state, Christ liveth in me. He works in me both to will and to do His good pleasure. The scripture has torn asunder the soul (reasonings/mind), flesh (appetites of the body) and spirit (inner wants and will) and by Christ's presence within, I can say with the apostle, I am as He was in this world.

My heart is full as I write this, and I look forward and pray that you may be filled with all the fullness of God, having Christ formed in you.

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2023/7/1 23:42

Quote:

----- I, like Paul look forward to our final perfection as well as rejoice at the fact that Jesus has perfected me now, in this life.

Just asking to understand

What is the difference between "our final perfection" and "Jesus has perfected me now"?

If we are perfected now, why is a "final perfection" needed?

Blessings

Re: - posted by ESchaible, on: 2023/7/2 0:01

The promise of bodily resurrection, as Paul says in the previous verse (I found that possibly the most helpful thing for me is realizing that those verse numbers are the only errors in the Bible).

The remainder of the chapter is also very illuminating.

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2023/7/2 0:13

Can you elaborate?

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2023/7/3 7:57

The order of Salvation is what he eludes to

Justification, Sanctification, Glorification.

Justification - the moment anyone believes in Christ he is justified.

Sanctification - "Jesus has perfected me now" - blameless

Glorification - the promise of bodily resurrection - "our final perfection"

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, Col 1:21-22

Through his death we are now reconciled - dead to sin and alive to God.. (Rom 6:10) so we can be Holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

Hope that helps

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2023/7/3 8:25

Hi Colin,

So how do you explain Phil. 3:12-14?

Blessings

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2023/7/3 12:12

I would say read v15 as well.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2023/7/4 0:33

That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead..

If you read the verses prior - you'll better understand what Paul is writing about verse 10-11 Paul saying he wants to be like Christ - to share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

So that he may attain the resurrection from the dead.

What is that - keep reading to find out.

Continue reading verse 20-21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body.

The perfection he is talking is a physical perfection a glorious body..

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2023/7/4 1:17

So what is the "perfection" in Phil. 3:15?

- posted by ESchaible, on: 2023/7/4 1:41

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2023/7/4 5:16

The Greek word is teleios

The KJV translates Strong's G5046 in the following perfect man, full of age

Bible Usage is

Brought to its end, finished, wanting nothing necessary to completeness, perfect, that which is perfect, consummate human integrity and virtue, of men, full grown, adult, of full age, mature.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g5046/kjv/tr/0-1/>

Same word is used here

Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect G5046 in Christ Jesus: Col 1:28

Perfect in Christ

But let patience have her perfect G5046 work, that ye may be perfect G5046 and entire, wanting nothing. Jam 1:4

Entirely Perfect...

Press in Sister, the Spirit will reveal it from his word to you...

I attend a weekly call for those seeking a deeper work of the Spirit in their lives. There are four people who attend have experienced the deeper work and are there to help others into that path...

It 2pm GMT every Wednesday if you're interested, let me know.

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2023/7/4 6:07

Re: - posted by BranchinVINE (), on: 2023/7/4 7:15

Phil. 3:15 (KJV) 'â€‘

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, BE THUS MINDED: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

(Emphasis in caps)

Colin, what does 'â€œbe thus mindedâ€‘ mean to you?

I think "be thus minded" is Paul's important message to us.

To me, "be thus minded" is to have the same "mind" as Paul in all he said in Phil. 3:7-14.

"as many as be perfect" has also been translated as "all of us who are mature". That is, no longer babes.

Re: This testimony was the vessel of the Lord for my sanctification: wept at work listening - posted by Lysa (), on: 2023/7/4 9:00

ESchaible,

I noticed you are new! Welcome to SermonIndex!

Hardly any of us here agree on 100% of everything, we all have our walk with the Holy Spirit and what He has shed on "our" path.

And there are those who have an argumentative spirit and those who do not. Please don't take it personally!

Most of us just enjoy the conversation and love Jesus!!

God bless you,

Lisa

Re: - posted by murrcolr (), on: 2023/7/4 12:28

Hi Jade

Thus minded

I was reading it earlier before you mentioned it and the words reminded me about a bible study I was apart of. We were looking at Matthew 5:8 Blessed be the pure in heart for they shall see God..

There was a teaching video and it was about being double minded and that to be pure in heart we need to be single minded.

katharos: describes a heart which is pure in motive and which exhibits single mindedness, undivided devotion and spiritual integrity.

Thus minded - is Single mindedness - the idea is "This one thing I do" Phil 3:13. and it shows me that Paul was pure in heart - single minded with undivided devotion towards God.

Re: - posted by ESchaible, on: 2023/7/4 18:11

Amen Colin!

This was a huge part of the fall of mankind. Humans went from single mindedness, seeing only good, to seeing good and evil, double mindedness/double vision.

This is a huge part of Christian living, as a single eye sees in a non judgmental way, and sees others a Jesus sees them - in love. When we see double we become judges and therefore judge others, judge things and ultimately become riddled with pride and bitterness.

One of Pauls main concerns in Philippians is unity of faith and purpose in the midst of persecution of all forms, doctrinal, sanctimonious ethical persecution, and of course, physical persecution.

I have sermons I preached in the past on this very site that, while true in doctrine and theology, and used of God even in revival, were not preached from a single eyed motive, and were full of bitterness and pride.

Paul spoke of me at that point in my walk with Christ when he said he rejoiced no matter how Christ was preached.