

WHAT DO OTHERS KNOW OF US?-PT 2
ACTS 4:13

Introduction

(Last week we saw the background of what was going on here in Acts 4) Acts 4:13, "...they took knowledge of them [Peter and John], that they had been with Jesus."

We asked this question: How can those in this world **KNOW** that we are truly **BELIEVERS** in **CHRIST**?

Scripture shows that if **GOD'S SALVATION** is at work in us, then we should be working it to the **OUTSIDE** of our life so others can see it!

*Philippians 2:12-13- "12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."*

PETER and **JOHN** (and the other **APOSTLES** too) were living **TRUE CHRISTIAN** lives daily and the world **TOOK NOTICE OF THEM** and **PERCEIVED** that they had **BEEN WITH JESUS!**

We see here how those that took notice of them didn't like that **PETER and JOHN** were like **JESUS** and **PREACHING JESUS!** They thought that once they had done away with **JESUS** by **CRUCIFYING HIM** that all this **JESUS** craze would be over! But it wasn't! In fact, this movement kept growing! People were getting **SAVED!** Lives were getting **CHANGED!**

The point is that these folks **KNEW PETER** and **JOHN** had **BEEN WITH JESUS!** It was **EVIDENT** that **JESUS HAD IMPACTED THEIR LIVES IN A TREMENDOUS WAY!**

We also saw how the same was true of both the **ROMAN BELIEVERS** and the **THESSALONIAN BELIEVERS** as those **CHURCHES** had great **CHRISTIAN** testimonies that was being talked about in the then known world!

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Last week we only had time to share the first point of this message as we began to look at how the world should be able to **KNOW** that we are **BELIEVERS IN CHRIST** or that we **BELONG TO CHRIST:**

I. THEY SHOULD KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN!

A. Repentance Is Important!

1. Repentance Is Important In Getting Saved!

PETER and **JOHN** had turned from their sin of **UNBELIEF** to **BELIEF** in **CHRIST!** They were **ALL IN** on that **BELIEF** and it was evident in their lives!

2. Repentance Is Important After We Are Saved!

That **REPENTANCE** from **UNBELIEF** to **BELIEF** led not only to their **SALVATION**, but after that point it led them to **REPENT** of other **SINS** as they were revealed to them by the **LORD!**

Understand that these men were just sinners **SAVED BY GRACE** just as we are!

B. Compromise Is Unacceptable For The Christian!

Compromise is when a **BELIEVER** tries to **BLEND** the characteristics of what is **acceptable with this WORLD** with the characteristics of what is **acceptable with GOD!**

We are to be DISTINCTIVELY DIFFERENT!

We are to be DISTINCTIVELY CHRISTIAN!

(e.g. Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga)

When a **BELIEVER** tries to hold on to the **WORLD** tightly and profess **CHRIST** at the same time, it confuses both the **WORLD** and the **CHURCH!**

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The result is a hybrid that doesn't fit with either the **WORLD** or with the cause of **CHRIST!**

If we truly love **GOD** with all our heart, soul, and mind and our neighbor as ourselves then **COMPROMISE** will be as unacceptable with us as it is with **GOD!**

- C. People Ought To **Be Able To See A Difference** In Our Lives! (i.e. There needs to be a **NOTABLE CHANGE** in our **WALK** and our **TALK!**)

Both other **BELIEVERS** and the **WORLD** should be able to **SEE** that we have **LEFT OUR SIN** and that we are **WALKING WITH THE SAVIOUR** now!
(e.g. *Saul the Persecutor ... The Apostle Paul*)

THEY SHOULD KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN...

II. THEY SHOULD KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY THE THINGS THAT SATISFY US!

- A. **What Is It That SATISFIES You? (Luke 12:16-21)**

In this parable we find a man that had pretty much ruled **GOD** out of his life.

He was seeking **SATISFACTION** in his farms, his barns, and his grain. (i.e. **SATISFACTION** with material things.)

But let me ask you this—What kind of message are **BELIEVERS** sending to the lost **WORLD** if their **FOCUS** is the same as the **WORLD?**

We need to look and see if our **FOCUS** is on **MATERIAL THINGS?** Because it shouldn't be!

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Colossians 3:1-4— "1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

If we have become wrapped up with seeking **MATERIAL** things like the **WORLD**, then this lost **WORLD** will not be able to tell that we've been with **JESUS**.

We need to think about what we are teaching our children and grandchildren by the **WAY** that we live and by **WHAT** we live for. What **VALUES** are we instilling in them?

- B. **We Should Seek Our SATISFACTION From God!**

1. David said in *Psalms 42:2—"My soul thirsteth for God"*
2. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount in *Matthew 5:6—"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."*
3. For what do we **hunger** and **thirst** for?
As long as we try to get our **SATISFACTION** from the things in this world, we will never be filled with **GOD** as we should be!
4. Jesus said, in *John 7:37—"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."*

We came to **CHRIST** for **SALVATION**, but we must also come to the **LORD** for our **SATISFACTION!**

Others will know that we are **CHRISTIANS** when we **SEEK SATISFACTION** in the **LORD ALONE!**

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III. **THEY SHOULD KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHERS!**

There are three basic philosophies of life and they are displayed in the parable of **THE GOOD SAMARITAN**. (*Luke 10:30-37*)

A. Philosophy #1—“What is thine is mine!”

1. This philosophy is portrayed by the **thieves**.
2. They saw this man as someone who had something that they didn't have, so he was fair game.
3. They took everything that he had and left him for dead.
4. That's the philosophy of this world: get what you want no matter who it may hurt!
(i.e. It is an **ATTITUDE** of total **SELFISHNESS!**)

It is the **ATTITUDE** that says:

“Get all you can however you can...can all you get... then, sit on the can!”

5. Some would never dream of robbing a person like these men did.

But they might cheat the IRS! They might steal from the company they work for! Or they might cheat an insurance company! Or they might rob **GOD OF HIS TITHE!**

Do you hear what I'm saying?

That is a *“What is thine is mine”* philosophy.

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B. Philosophy #2—“What is mine is mine!”

1. That was the **ATTITUDE** portrayed by the **PRIEST** and the **LEVITE**.
2. They had no time for **OTHERS**...they were too busy with **THEIR OWN AGENDAS!**
3. They both saw the **NEED**, but walked away!
4. So many today are blind to the **NEEDS** of **OTHERS** because of **SELFISHNESS, GREED, and APATHY!**
5. Many just plain **DON'T CARE!**
6. They say, *“What's mine is mine and I will keep it!*

C. Philosophy #3—“What is mine is thine!”

1. That was the **ATTITUDE** presented by **THE GOOD SAMARITAN!**
2. That is the **ATTITUDE** of **JESUS CHRIST!**
2 Corinthians 8:9—“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”
3. That was the **ATTITUDE** of **GOD** when **HE** gave **HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON** for you and for me!
4. When we see a **NEED** what do we do?
5. Which of these **ATTITUDES** do we **DISPLAY** by our **ACTIONS?**

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B. There is a song written by Charles D. Meigs.

OTHERS

*Lord, help me to live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer will be for others.*

*Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I'd do for You
Must needs be done for others.*

*Let me be crucified and slain
And buried deep; and all in vain
My efforts be to rise again
Unless to live again for others.*

*And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heaven's begun
May I forget the crown I've worn
While thinking still of others.*

*Others, Lord, yes others,
Let this my motto be --
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee.*

*THEY SHOULD KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS
BY OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN. . .*

BY THE THINGS THAT SATISFY US. . .

BY OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHERS. . .

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IV. **THEY SHOULD KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR FRUITS!** (*Matthew 7:15-21*)

In *Matthew 7:15-21*, JESUS told HIS DISCIPLES to beware of **FALSE PROPHETS**. And HE told them how to identify them—
By their **FRUITS!**

That also works with us! What kind of **FRUIT** are we bearing in our lives?

The title **CHRISTIAN** in its original sense meant “**CHRISTLIKE.**”

1. If we are **FILLED** with the **SPIRIT OF GOD**, then the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT** should be evident in our lives.
2. **PAUL** makes the comparison of the **WORKS OF THE FLESH** and the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT** in *GALATIANS 5:19-23*.
3. We are chosen to bear the **IMAGE OF CHRIST** to a lost and dying world.
4. What kind of **FRUIT** is being produced in our lives?

Conclusion:

Some would say that it doesn't matter what others think of us, and in some ways that might be true. But, it does matter that we **REPRESENT CHRIST FAITHFULLY** here in this life.

Consider tonight: What is your **ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN**? Where do you seek your **SATISFACTION**? What is your **ATTITUDE TOWARD OTHERS**? What kind of **FRUIT** are you bearing?

Do others know that you are a **CHRISTIAN** by what they see in you? Our desire should be that someone might **take notice that we have been with JESUS!**