

You Are An Epistle Of Christ – 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

Outline By: Mark Knowles 1/31/16 PM

Introduction

1. What is influence? When Jesus said that we are the salt of the earth, light of the world and leaven He was showing how we are to be an influence. In tonight's lesson we are going to study a metaphor used by Paul with reference to influence as epistles of Christ...

I. Epistles Are Always Written On Materials Which Have Undergone A Change

- a. The Vital Importance Of Conversion
 - i. Matthew 18:3; Acts 3:19
 - ii. It is produced by the Word of God (Psalm 19:7; Romans 1:16)
 - iii. This change is threefold in nature
 1. There is a change of heart produced by faith (Acts 15:8-9)
 2. There is a change of life produced by repentance (Matthew 12:41)
 3. There is a change of state produced at baptism (Romans 6:4)
 4. The results are a changed life – conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17)

II. Epistles Are Read, With The Readers Being Influenced Thereby

- a. We Are Being Read Like An Open Book
 - i. 1 Peter 3:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:24-25; 1 Peter 2:12
 - ii. It is the character and conduct of a Christian that will be heard before he ever preaches about Jesus

III. Epistles Are Written For The Good Of Others

- a. Following The Example Of Jesus
 - i. Christ lived and died for the good of others (2 Corinthians 8:9; Matthew 20:28; 1 Corinthians 10:24; Romans 15:1)

IV. Epistles Convey The Expression Of Their Author

- a. Seeing Christ In Me
 - i. As epistles of Christ we are to give an expression of Christ to the world (Philippians 2:5; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:20; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 14:9)
 - ii. What impression of Christ do others get by reading us?

V. Epistles Bear The Signature Of Their Author

- a. As Epistles Of Christ We Wear His Name
 - i. Acts 11:26; 4:11-12; James 2:7
 - ii. If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

VI. Epistles Should Be Written So As To Be Easily Read

- a. People Should Easily Tell That We Are Disciples of Christ
 - i. Do people recognize easily that we are disciples? (Acts 4:13; Romans 12:2)

VII. Some Epistles Do Not Contain Much

- a. Epistles Of Christ Are Full Of Abundant Life
 - i. Acts 9:36; Romans 15:14 – As epistles we are to be filled with the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

VIII. Epistles May Become Blotted

- a. The Blot On Any Letter Will Be The First Thing Seen
 - i. The Christian must be careful lest his life becomes stained and spotted (Revelation 1:5; James 1:27)