

POSSIBLE MESSAGES IN SERIES ON SPIRITUAL  
AND MATURITY

1. Worship, The Christian's Highest Occupation. Some are more interested in seeing God work than in seeing God. Read WORSHIP by A.P. Gibbs.
2. I John 2's description of stages in growth: children, young men, fathers. The Father part is significant..."knowing the eternal Father." The young men: overcome the devil. We would probably think that was the greater, the more advanced, want to stop right there...but there is more beyond that...KNOWING THE FATHER... Not that the children and the young men didn't know the Father but that's not how they would have epitomized Salvation. How would you sum up, in one phrase, a phrase that touches the deepest and the highest. Sins forgiven? Overcome Satan? No. Knowing the Father. Maturity is when you recognize this to be the epitome of the Christian life.
3. The Christian and Sin. Dealing with sin. The fact that Christ took away ALL our sins, both past, present, and future. How many of our sins were future when Jesus died? All of them. What then is the place of confession? First, let it be seen that confession of sins is called for in the Christian's walk with the Lord. I John 1:9
4. The Greatest Joy of the Christian...I John 1...fellowship with the Father...not soul winning, miracles, etc., tongues. Children joy comes from other things than does an adult's. You can pretty well gauge a person's maturity by what gives him the greatest joy. I used to love to play guns, cars. A teenager gets a thrill out of burning rubber on a car. Sadly, it takes very little to please some people, very little to fill them with joy.
5. FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WILL. Surrendered to the Will of God.
6. The Word of God. Timothy passage, "profitable... that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished, equipped unto every good work.



(2)

(6) If these verses are compared with the opening verses of other Pauline epistles, the baldness of the address is at once obvious. The recipients are described as "the churches of Galatia" with none of the usual qualifying phrases. Paul also omits the usual thanksgiving for the spiritual state of his converts. He is too deeply distressed for compliments.

APOSTLE: The apostles were those who filled a unique place in the divine plan of salvation as the primary witnesses to the unique event, the saving act of God in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Paul's view is that a man is constituted an apostle in virtue of the facts that he himself has seen the risen Lord and that he has received a commission direct from him.

The office involved the twofold responsibility of preaching the Gospel and of exercising authority over the church.

He adds the words WHO RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD because, as ~~XX~~ v. 16 indicates, he regards the vision of the Risen Lord as his commissioning.

(TORCH)

(7) The opening sentences of a Pauline Epistle generally repay careful and detailed study. They often reveal the thoughts that dominate the apostle as he begins to write, and so provide a key-note for the rest of the letter.

In no letter does he describe his commission with such fullness or emphasis as here, where he defines it not merely affirmatively, but also by means of a double negative.

Regarding the authenticity of Paul's apostleship, the important matter was what he had seen the Risen Lord -- or rather, that the Risen Lord had appeared to him, and that he had received from God Himself his apostolic commission. If further proof were wanted, there was the obvious fact that the blessings of God rested upon his work. Cf. 2 Cor. 12:12 & Gal. 2:7,8.

The gospel which he as an apostle proclaimed was not one which he had derived by sitting at the feet of another, nor was its authority dependent on the question of its agreement with the teaching of the other apostles; he had received from God a revelation of His Son, and the implications of that revelation were worked out in what he called "my gospel". (All preachers must, on the basis of the revelation they receive, work out their "own gospel".)

JESUS CHRIST AND GOD THE FATHER: Together these two titles constitute a ~~direct divine intervention~~ direct divine intervention which leaves no place for dependence on human agencies.

RAISED FROM THE DEAD: Paul is trying to vindicate not only his apostleship but also the Gospel which he preached.

(MOFFATT)

(8) In this opening salutation phrases are skillfully added as to present at once the essential themes of the letter. These are three: i. his apostolic authority; ii. the doctrine of justification by faith; iii. the life of the believers. To each of these three subjects two chapters of the epistle are devoted, and to each of these subjects definite reference is made in this salutation.

(ERDMAN)