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CHRIST SHALL BE MAGNIFIED

In Philippians 1:20, the apostle Paul expressed his desire for Christ to be “*magnified*” in his body. To be “*magnified*” is to “hold up, honor, exalt, to make great.” Albert Barnes says that the word “*magnify*” carries with it the idea that Christ will be held up to the view of man as the true and only Savior (*Barnes’ Notes*). In the context of Philippians 1:20, we see this was Paul’s desire, whether living or dead. Adam Clarke said, “Whether life or death, was to him perfectly equal, and perfectly indifferent, providing Christ were magnified - his person, nature, doctrine, etc., shown to be, what they really are, most noble, most excellent, most necessary, and most glorious” (*Commentary On The Whole Bible*). This is not the only time Paul declared his intent to “*magnify*” and even glorify God. At the time of this writing, remember that Paul was sitting in a Roman prison! Whether in prison,

or free, whether in life or death, Paul wanted Christ to be “*magnified*” in his body! The question before us is, “How could he ‘*magnify*’ God while in prison? Consider the definition of the word “*magnify*” again (“hold up, honor, exalt, make great”). He had the ability to “*magnify*” Christ in his body through teaching those *not* in prison, and encouraging their faithfulness. He also had the ability to “*magnify*” God through his letters to the Christians and through the teaching he did when folks personally visited him (Acts 28:23-24, 30-31; II Tim. 4:9-13). Further, he could pray for the brethren. For example, in the books of II Corinthians 13:7; Colossians 1:9; Ephesians 1:16, 3:14; Philippians 1:4, 9, 19; and I Thessalonians 5:23, Paul expressed his love for the brethren and his prayers on their behalf. It would have been easy to adopt a “woe is me” attitude and feel sorry for himself. How easy it would have been to be bitter or to turn against God and the brethren who loved him. Especially would this have been easy considering that

Paul knew some were preaching out of contention toward him and thought they could add affliction to his bonds in their preaching (Phil. 1:14-17). Instead, he took the attitude that regardless of what others did or did not do, he would *"magnify"* God so long as he lived! Friends, may we learn a lesson from the apostle Paul. We cannot control what others do to us. We cannot control what others think or say about us. We can only control ourselves and control our attitudes! Brethren, have we determined to *"magnify"* God in our bodies? Are we determined to honor, exalt, lift up, and make great the God of Heaven while we are on this earth? If not, why not? God has created us (Gen. 1-2). God sustains us (Acts 17:24-28). God made salvation possible for us, and Christ died on the cross while we were still in our sin (Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16)! God's love abounds to this day! Are we going to ignore this? Will we act in a selfish manner? Are we guilty of conducting ourselves in such a way that makes men want to honor, exalt, and hold us up instead of God? I pray we never do that. To do this is a recipe for disaster! Read what happened to the Gentiles when they did not glorify God as God and were not thankful (Rom. 1:18-32). Furthermore, consider the fact that God has the ability to bring men low when they exalt themselves (Matt. 23:12; Jas. 4:10; I Pet. 5:6). Brethren, let us have the attitude of Paul and *"magnify"* God in our bodies. Honor and exalt God all the days of our lives, and honor Him even in our deaths! This is something we can do regardless of our age! This is something we can

do regardless of how we are treated by others. In fact, when we are treated the worst is the time folks need to see Christ in us the most (Gal. 2:20)!

We *"magnify"* God in our bodies when we remember that He comes first (Matt. 22:37, 6:33) and then reflect this in our lives.

We *"magnify"* God when we use our tongues to praise Him (Jas. 3; Heb. 13:15) and His *"wonderful works"* (Ps. 40:5, 78:4).

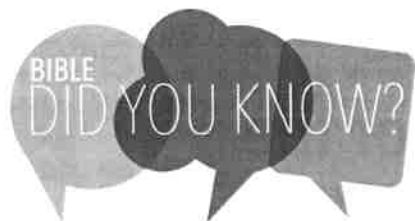
We *"magnify"* God when we show ourselves to be righteous examples toward others and allow our lights to *"shine before men"* (Matt. 5:16). This is not always an easy task, but it is a daily task (Lk. 9:23), and we need to be about it! Our bodies belong to the Lord (I Cor. 6:20). Therefore, let us *"magnify"* God in them! -

Jarrold Jacobs **You Finish
The Story ...**

Selected

There was once a congregation in which every member was just like you. Each one cooperated and supported every phase of the work just like you. Everyone worked as hard and attended the same services and gospel meetings that you did. The elders, deacons, and preacher were all as interested in the church as you are. They put the same emphasis on recreation, business, and other material affairs that you do. Each member contributed

monetarily just like you do.
Within a year or so, the
congregation



"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them," Col. 3:1-7

"But I will leave among you a humble and lowly people, and they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong and tell no lies, nor will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths; for they will feed and lie down with no one to make them tremble. Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. The LORD your God is in your midst. A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy."
Zeph. 3:12-17

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



Smiting Gods Found From Baal Worship

A pair of smiting gods and other rare ritual artifacts are among the fascinating discoveries described in a recently published comprehensive report of the 2013-2017 excavations of the archaeology-rich Lachish site. The report digs deep into 12th century BCE Canaanite worship practices, from the modest temple structure, to ritual items discovered inside. Israeli archaeologist Yosef Garfinkel uncovered the ruins of a Canaanite temple from the 12th century B.C. The excavation site, located in Lachish, one of the most important Old Testament cities in the region, has yielded [a trove of artifacts used in Canaanite worship](#), including jewelry, daggers, and two four-inch-tall bronze figurines of “smiting gods.” Perhaps the most significant discovery at the temple is a bronze scepter coated with silver. Garfinkel believes it was held by a human-sized statue of the Canaanite god Baal. The statue itself was not found, but large statues of ancient Canaanite gods are rare. “This excavation has been breathtaking,” said lead archaeologist Professor Yosef Garfinkel at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Institute of Archaeology in a press release on Monday. The excavation report, “The Level VI North-East Temple At Tel Lachish,” was recently published in the academic journal *Levant: The Journal of The Council for British Research In the Levant*.



“Only once every 30 or 40 years do we get the chance to excavate a Canaanite temple in Israel. What we found sheds new light on ancient life in the region. It would be hard to overstate the importance of these findings,” said Garfinkel, who led the excavation along with Professor Michael Hasel of Southern Adventist University in Tennessee.