## Filled with the Love of Christ

Ephesians 3:19— And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

To be *"filled with all the fullness of God"* is to be filled with the love of God, since *"God is love"* (1 John 4:16).

I heard a prominent pastor say one time that if he could transfer one thing of himself to the people of his church, he would transfer his "awareness" to them. I've been reflecting on his statement and I believe that would be something I would wish for everyone BBC.

There are several things I have that I would not want to transfer to you: My hair... My eyesight... My singing voice... etc. But there are several things I would wish each of you would be as keenly aware of as I am...

Awareness of **the peace and assurance of being saved**. Jesus said, *"Rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven"* (Luke 10:20). I'm fully aware my name is indelibly written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Awareness of **the value of the Bible**. Are you aware that when you hold this Book in your hands you're holding the perfect Word of God... Are you aware of the blood of martyrs that was shed that you might have it. Are you aware that millions do not have a copy? I don't know how many more times I'll have to open this Book. When I open it, I want to realize this is God's voice speaking to me, therefore, He is going to have my full attention.

Awareness of **the privilege of being a member of this church**. There aren't many churches like this one.

Awareness of **God's goodness**. Every time I sit down to eat, I'm aware it's only because the goodness of God I have food on my table. Recently God made me aware that even the ability to crew my food is a gift of God. My friend Brother Blue has to eat through a feeding tube because of ALS. When I get out of bed in the morning and stand on my feet, it is only because God has blessed me with physical health. Brother Blue, cannot even get out of bed on his own, much less stand up. I never want to take for granted the food I eat or the health I have.

Awareness of **the blessing of Gospel music**. Sometimes as I'm being blessed by the choir's singing, I notice some in the pew chattering back and forth unaware of what the choir is singing. It makes me want to jump off the platform and tell them, "Hey, listen to what they are singing! Doesn't that excite you?" Or, when I am leading a congregational hymn and I see someone talking with the person next to them. They are missing the message of the song and the opportunity to worship God. It's a crying shame. They're just unaware or they don't care.

Awareness of the importance of preaching God's Word. I don't know how many more times I have left to preach, so I'm going to enjoy every minute of it. <u>I am an ambassador of Jesus Christ</u>. I'm His appointed representative. He could not be here in person. He's booked solid at the right hand of the Father making intercession for your sins and mine—That's a full time job.

Awareness of **the shortness and preciousness of time**. The older I get, the more I'm aware that my days are numbered.

Most of all, I wish you would be fully aware of how much God loves you. I wish you were so filled with the love of Christ, that it "breaks out" all over you like the measles. You can't hide it!

• WHAT FILLS YOU, CONTROLS YOU (Mt. 12:34). Anger, envy, Spirit

To be filled with the love of God requires...

## I. A mind DWELLING on the love of God.

- You should so dwell on God's love for you **that it dominates** your mind to the point there is no room no other rival.
- A. SATURATION—Being filled with the Lord of God is having your mind so saturated by the thoughts of His love that it **oozes out** from you to all you come in contact with.
  - I want to be so filled with the love of God that it overflows and bubbles over onto you.

- B. SPONGE: Place a sponge in a pail of water for awhile then squeeze it. What comes out? It's been <u>dwelling</u> in water. If you soak a sponge in vinegar and squeeze it, what will come out?
- C. SQUEEZED— When you flood your mind with thoughts of the love of God, it will come out in your living—Especially when the pressures of life put the squeeze on you. <u>On the other hand</u>, if you fill your mind with carnal thoughts, your life will be characterized by carnal conversation and carnal conduct.
  - When I step behind this pulpit, I can only give out to you what has come into me. If I've been dwelling on negative thoughts, it will taint my preaching. Therefore, I'm careful and reserved about any conversation I have before a church service.

## II. A mind DISCIPLINED in it thinking.

- Beware of what you allow into your mind—"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23).
- Resolve to have <u>Philippians 4:8</u> control your thoughts—*Finally,* brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.
- A. Paul's exhortation in **reverse order**—"Think on that which is praiseworthy, virtuous, of good report, lovely, pure, just, honest, and true."
  - 1. Think about GOD! *God is...* true... honest... just... pure... lovely... of good report... virtuous... and worthy of praise.
  - 2. When those things dominate your thinking, it will be manifested in your life. Just fill your mind with the love of Christ!
- B. The opposite of things you should <u>not think about</u>— When you are filled with the love of Christ, you will NOT be thinking about things that are untrue, dishonest, unjust, impure, ugly, of evil report, unwholesome, or contemptible.
  - Negative thinking will lead to a negative living (Prov. 23:7).

I stay by myself a lot. I'm not into the "social media" thing. It is not because I'm anti-social. I love people. But when I'm by myself, I am in control of what I think about—I choose what I think about. But, when I am with someone else and listening to them, they control what I think about. If they talk about the Seahawks... a TV show... some another person, that is what I'll be thinking about. It is another reason why I'm not on FaceBook®.

If you want to talk to me about another Christian, don't talk about someone who has backslidden or committed some horrible sin— There is nothing praise worthy in that. If you want to talk to me about someone, tell me about someone who witnessed for Christ this week... got a prayer answered... is serving the Lord... learned something new from their Bible study... got a blessing at a church service... how God provided for their needs.

**SUMMATION**: A little girl was in the hospital recovering from surgery. She was a Christian. A grumpy nurse came into her room and the little girl greeted her, "Good morning nurse. How are you today?"

"I've been better," the nurse grumbled.

"Isn't it a beautiful day outside?" the little girl said cheerfully.

"If you say so," the nurse frowned.

Finally the little girl asked, "Hey, have you heard the good news?"

"No, I haven't heard any good news," she answered abruptly.

"Well, I know some good news."

"What good news?" the nurse asked skeptically.

The little girl sat up, smiled, and said, "Jesus is alive, and He loves you!"

"Oh, yeah. I've heard that before."

Then the little girl asked, "Well then, why are you so grumpy?"

- Hey! Have you heard the good news? Jesus loves you. Jesus loved you before He created the heavens and the earth.
- Hey, did you hear the good news that one hundred million years from now God will still love you?

- Did you hear the good news that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life?"
- Did you hear the good news that God commended His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- Did you hear the good news that *"he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*
- Did you hear the good news that nothing can separate you from the love of Christ Jesus our Lord?
- Did you hear the good news that Jesus said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee?"
- Did you hear the good news that "God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

I can tell who is filled with the love of God. It is obvious. Paul wrote, "But if any man love God, the same is known of him" (1 Cor. 8:3).

Jesus said, "*I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you*" (John 5:42). How did He know? Jesus said, *"If a man love me, he will keep my words*" (John 14:23). Obviously, if they were not keeping His words, it was an indication they were not filled with His love.

How filled are you with the love of God? Your life will show it.

Fill yourself with the love of God! Dwell on it... Saturate you mind with it... Let it dominate your life... Let it flow from you to others.

Are you saved? You can only have the love of God IN YOU, if you have Jesus in your heart!