

## THE MIND OF CHRIST

In Philippians 2:5 the apostle Paul admonishes, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Every Christian should strive to have the mind of Christ, that is, to be spiritually minded. "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6). In verse 13 Paul says "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die, but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the flesh ye shall live." To mortify the deeds of the flesh means "to put to death" the deeds of the body that are wrong and contrary to spiritual or Christian living. After all, this is the only way to have the mind of Christ, who said, "...the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him" (John 8:29).

If we have the mind of Christ, what will our minds be dwelling on? The Psalmist David says, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night" (Psa. 1:1,2). Will we be thinking of new ways and devices to make more and more money; will we be thinking of bigger and better and more expensive recreation to entertain ourselves and impress our friends? Or will we be more concerned with the spiritual life and preparation for eternity? After all death is coming to all. What about thinking about ways to build up the church and contribute what we can to make it strong? "The apostle Paul said, "Be strong in the Lord and the power of his might" (Eph. 6:10). If we have the mind of Christ we will be concerned with reaching the lost with the gospel. We will be interested in saving our friends and relatives by encouraging them to come to the services and to do what is right. If we have the mind of Christ we will have a desire to increase our understanding of the will of God that we may better serve Him and be able to teach and help others get to heaven.

We are told in Col. 1:10, "We desire...that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." In spite of such teaching there are some in the church who claim to be living the Christian life who have never increased much in the knowledge of the scriptures; who know very little more now than they did when they first obeyed the gospel. How can a person have the mind of Christ if he knows nothing about Christ. Knowledge of the scriptures today is not a spiritual gift. It is something that is acquired by study. Paul the apostle said, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Peter says, "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18).

Knowledge is one of the graces we are to add to our faith (2 Peter 1:5). The wise man, Solomon says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov. 1:7). Maybe some of us do not fear the Lord enough to put forth the effort to increase our knowledge of His will. "For to fear God and keep his commandments is the whole duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13). If we are going to have the mind of Christ, we have to know what God's will is, so we can do it, as Jesus did. Read the Bible and take advantage of opportunities to learn from others, and listen to the preaching of the gospel with the intention of increasing our understanding.

The Christian life is worth living wholeheartedly, or it is not worth living at all. We should instill in the hearts of our children a love for the scriptures and the desire to know what the Bible teaches. Also, we should encourage every Christian to have the mind of Christ. The very best way to do this is by example. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.