

The Christian Life: Knowing, Loving and Pleasing a Person



Philippians 1:20-23; 3:7-10

What is the essence of the Christian life? Is it following a set of rules? Is it all about reading the Bible, praying and witnessing? Is it primarily about avoiding the wrong and choosing the right? Sometimes it is instructive to think about what certain verses do **not** say. Consider the following (and be sure to look up what these verses really say): “For to me to live is *reading my Bible, memorizing Scripture, praying at least 15 minutes daily and witnessing at every opportunity*” (Phil. 1:21). “I count all things but loss for the excellency of *trying to guard my tongue, trying to overcome my bad habits and trying to have my daily devotions*” (Phil. 3:8). “That I may *avoid evil as much as possible and force myself to witness to others daily*” (Phil. 3:10). “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy *daily Bible reading schedule and thou hast broken thy New Year’s resolutions and thou has failed to keep the Ten Commandments*” (Rev. 2:4). “Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may *watch our temper, keep following our strict diet, get enough rest, and not watch too many bad TV shows*” (2 Cor. 5:9).

The real emphasis of the above verses is upon knowing, loving and pleasing Jesus Christ. So also Colossians 1:9-12: we are to know His will, walk with Him, please Him, increase in His knowledge, be strengthened by Him, be joyful in Him and thank Him. This emphasis will wonderfully change prayer (talking to the Person I love). It will change Bible study (getting to know this Person better). It will change witnessing (introducing others to the One I adore). Am I working at a religion or am I walking with a Person? He’s my Sovereign Master, my Friend, my ever-present Companion. ***O how I love Him!***

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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