Journal Entries

Assignment 5-1 for BI5532 NTHLT

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In reading Galatians I took away a few things that are note worthy including Paul’s introduction, which starts off with him defending his apostleship, and emphasizing that Christ appointed him. Paul moves on very quickly to defend the Gospel and remind his readers to be careful of false teachers. Paul continues on by reminding us that we are justified through faith and brings focus back on the Gospel and the fact that we are crucified with Christ and that we live a new life of freedom with Christ in His resurrection. A few more topics are discussed within the rest of the letter including being heirs with Christ, walking by faith and living in the freedom we have through the Spirit. I camped out more towards the beginning of this letter while studying and coincidentally I was teaching on Galatians 2:20 to the kindergartners this past weekend. I was able to discuss how we spiritually partake in the crucifixion of Christ and are able to have victory over sin and death. I reflected a lot on this verse specifically because it is often one I pass over without thinking twice but I really just sat down and asked myself am I truly living in that victory? I came to the conclusion that I don’t do a good job of living in that victory and I need to remind myself daily that I am a child of God and that I no longer live under the rule of sin.

In reading Ephesians I was able to reflect a lot on unity and relying on Christ for my strength. Paul discusses many things including his thankfulness to the people in Ephesus because of their faith in Jesus and love for all the saints as well as grace through faith, being one in Christ, the mystery of Christ (Gentile and Jews are heirs together), unity in Christ, being imitators of God, wives/husbands, children/parents and the armor of God. The main thing that stood out to me was unity in Christ because it is something I feel like our age is missing. Everyone is so concerned with themselves nowadays that many times unity falls away and this something Christ did not want. The high priestly prayer in John 17 is another great reference to this unity amongst believers because Christ new what was about to come and instead of praying for Himself he instead prayed for us believers that we would be one just as He and the Father are one. One point of application is to understand that within the body we may have differences but we are all important and we shouldn’t let differences tear us apart.

Within my reading of Philippians I noticed a few key points that jumped out at me including advancing of the Gospel, Living as Christ, Humility, being lights in the world, righteousness through faith and urging believers towards excellence. The two that stick out to me the most are the advancing of the Gospel and striving towards excellence. Within the beginning of Philippians Paul discusses the advancing in the Gospel and rejoicing in the fact that the good news is spreading even though it may be coming from hearts that are only be focused on self advancement. This specifically stood out to me because I want to have that attitude of thankfulness that the Gospel is being preached in all circumstances even if someone’s motives behind it may not be correct. Striving towards excellence also stuck out to me because I want to be growing in my relationship with Christ but I can only be doing that if I am thinking about things that are true, honorable, pure, lovely, commendable, excellence and anything worthy of praise as Paul says. One way that I have been implementing this is by only listening to worship music because I know personally music effects me on deep level.

Within my reading of Colossians I was able to find a few things that stood out to me. One of those things that stood out to me on a deeper level was being raised with Christ and putting on our new selves. Paul talks about putting death what is earthly inside of us like sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire and covetousness. This was a good reminder that I should not be setting my sites on things of this earth but that I should be fixing my gaze on heaven. Working as a software engineer at a big company sometimes becomes stressful and very cutthroat but Paul’s words are helping me fight against this mentality when he says to put on holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. One practical application for this within my daily life would be giving recognition to others instead of taking all the credit for my self on projects.