



The Hall of Tyrannus

How Paul's strategy in Ephesus renewed
my mind and restored my life

Ephesians 4:20-24 & Acts 19



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This E-book is dedicated to the Apostle Paul who by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit created a process by which ordinary men and women could renewed their minds in a very short period of time.

In the early spring of 1980, I was living in Bodrum, Turkey and was working as a volunteer for an underwater archaeological project with a team from Texas A&M. I had a weekend free and realized that the historical ruins of Ephesus were within a half a day bus ride so on a Saturday morning I jumped on the first one that was heading north.

Since I was alone and there were no guides that were leading a tour, I just remember having my Bible and a notebook and for most of the day developed my own self study around this historic site.

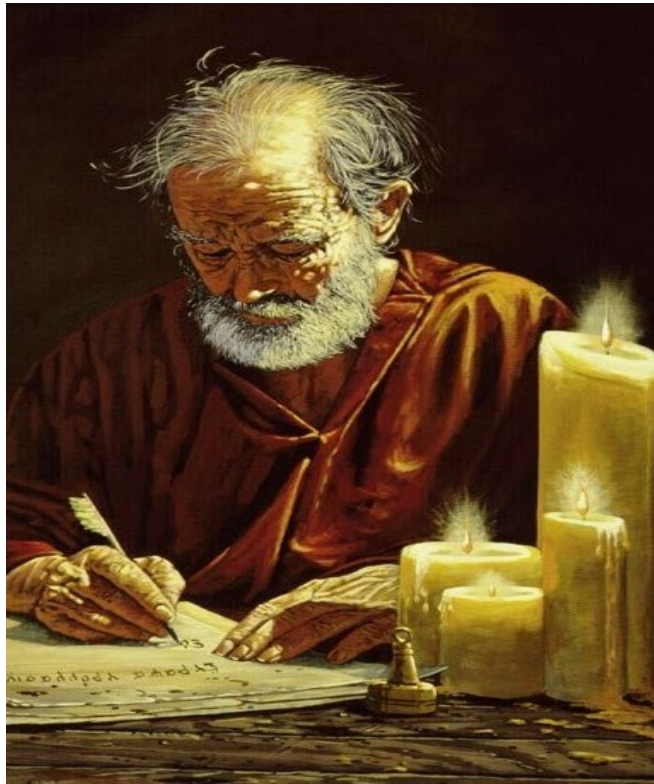
I probably walked right past where the Hall of Tyrannus was positioned. Little did I know that 43 years later, what took place in that building would restore and redeem how I thought and would in fact, renew my mind.

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Chapter 1

Paul's final grand strategy



Acts 19:8-10

Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, reasoning persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way.

So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture Hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord

The Hall of Tyrannus was the final grand strategy used by the Apostle Paul, the world's greatest missionary, to tell over 2,000,000 people in two years about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

His audience were pagan unbelievers who had never heard about Jesus. His method of presentation was so powerful that observers said he was turning the world upside down.

After more than 30 years of experiences in presenting the gospel to people in other cultures, Paul put it all together with this new strategy. The Hall of Tyrannus would become the epicenter of the transformation of people minds that would change the world.

Paul never had an opportunity to do it again. It was his grand finale because soon after, at about age 54 he visited Jerusalem with an offering for poor people, but was unjustly arrested. He was held for two years as a prisoner and then sent to Rome for trial and death.

The Hall of Tyrannus was Paul's last, biggest, boldest, and most successful mission outreach. It's the epitome of what Jesus told his followers to do which was to abide in Him.

Even though Paul learned this powerful strategy late in life and was able to implement it only once before his death, he left the outline for us to continue.

Chapter 2

Coming to myself

It's going to be amazing when we are on the other side of heaven and we all get to share our stories of our faith walk. Imagine hearing how your fellow brothers and sisters will gladly take you through each moment of their journey and we will all be in awe as we see how the Lord really did work out all of the details for each amazing escape.

For the purposes of this ebook, I would like to propose that there were three moments that led me to a place where I could even write this ebook. Getting a perspective of things by looking backward is really a creative way to understand the markers in your life that in many cases point to where you are going.

So for me, those three moments included the following. The first was the Halloween Weekend of October, 1987 when I went to a men's retreat and accepted Christ. The second time of marking was in August, 2001 when I was standing in my garage and I believed that I sensed that the Lord confirmed that He wanted me to step into the business world by representing the Kingdom of God in all that I would do. The third event that really led to the writing of this ebook and came in August, 2018. There was a day in that month, I believe that it was on a Thursday, that I came to myself. You know the Bible talks about it in the story of the Prodigal Son. In verse Luke 15:17 it says that in a moment, the young man was changed.

Of course many of us may read that and think back to the story of what the young man was previously doing with his life which as by all accounts out of control. So, it is reasonable to think that because of all of that hard life, he finally just got fed up with the whole thing and just “surrendered “. That sounds reasonable, but I would like to submit that what really happened is that in a flash of a moment, the young man actually just realized that he was in a deep, dark hole that he had dug and that from his perspective, it was not something that he could get out of.

I was there in August, 2018. The situations were completely different than the young man in the story of the Prodigal Son, but the mindset shifts were exactly the same. In a moment of time, I got clarity unlike I had ever gotten before, but it was a revelation that carried with it a profound sense of fear and hopelessness and it immediately put me into a place that I had never been before. This can happen to any of us and the more that I understand this event, the more I realize how often this happens to all of us.

So what happened when I came to myself. The vision that I received was one that horrified me. I realized that everything that I owned and had worked so hard to create for my entire life was about to be lost. While that was hard to accept, it got worst. It was like watching a series of dominos start to fall and yet there was nothing that I could do to stop it. The final domino was the hardest to take.

As all of this information was downloading into my mind in what seemed to be an amazingly short period of time, it was almost too overwhelming to take. So, my mind started to kick in and do what it always does which is that it tries to make sense of what is happening. Immediately, I started to think about my relationship with my Father in Heaven in the hopes that I could draw from that relationship, but as soon as I did, that is when things really went dark. Immediately, I realized my theology around who I thought that the Lord was and more importantly, who I thought that I was no longer made any sense.

As the day was coming to a conclusion, I found myself in a place in my life that I had never been before and I knew that things would never be the same again. The question that I had before me was simple. “ What am I going to do to fix my mindset ?”. I had no answers. So as my head hit the pillow and as I said good night to my wife, I just laid in my bed and in the quiet and found myself asking two questions of the Lord. They were:

Question #1: Would you show me how I got here?

Question #2: Would you show me how to get out ?

I am not a person who has any mental health education, back round or experience so what I am about to write about will not be from a perspective of that profession, but what I was going through was a mental breakdown which I now believe was caused by a complete removal of my identity as I knew it.

Chapter 3

Searching for a firm foundation

So what happens when people hit a mental wall in their lives? How do they not only find a way to reboot their mind, but then turn that experience around and renew their mind. Of course much of this has been written about in so many ways, especially in the area of business and sports and while the results have been spectacular in many ways, much of those techniques do not bring in the amazing power of the Gospel. In fact, I believe the case can be made that while there is a significant movement today of people entering into the profession of faith based counseling, the average person really has very little idea of how the Lord can redeem and restore all things, including our minds.

So when I had my “come to myself “ moment, I was lost and really had no one to turn to. Initially I started to talk to my friends and even my pastor, but I could not even attempt to explain what was happening in my life and in fact felt like a guy who was going crazy. I realized that I was quite alone in this battle which made this work even more difficult.

So, I started where almost anyone would go, which is into the world of recovery. Since I lost my mind, perhaps I could find a way to recover it again and so any recovery program seemed like a logic step.

I initially stepped into Debtors Anonymous first. Since my mental meltdown really revolved mostly around my finances and since the recommendation for this recovery program came from a credible source, it seemed like a logical first step.

I knew about the basics of the 12 step construct so I was somewhat familiar around how all of that worked. As usual, I jumped all in. I bought The Big Book and started to get onto the daily conference calls. Given that very few people knew much about this organization, it was not something that I could do real time as they really didn't have local meetings like AA does which made this journey very difficult.

As I got deeper into the DA process, it got more and more intense. Most people do not know much about this organization, but it was actually birthed decades after AA was started. Most of the original founders of AA were also the founders of DA, so it had a very firm foundation. I was so active that I was asked to lead the Saturday morning conference call which I loved doing because it was focused on testimonies which always inspired me.

After finding my flow in the DA process for almost a year, I hit a wall. The first AHA moment was when I started to look around and realize that God was not in the overall daily conversation. The second AHA came when I began to have confidential conversations with people that had been in DA for a long time and what they told me shocked me. Many had recovered from alcohol but dealing with money

and debt was so deeply rooted into the life of each person that it was almost impossible to actually recover. I know that sounds crazy, but this explains why this recovery process had tremendous turnover and very little success.

I quickly pivoted and really started to jump into my local Celebrate Recovery program which I had been a member of but was never really committed. My dear friends John Belew and Carolyn Long were leading our weekly gathering and the Lord used their amazing gifts to lead us well. Since this was pre-Covid the gathering were robust and I was engaged in leading a small group of men as we would go weekly into what I called “ The Swamp of the Soul “ to peel back the layers of our personal façade in order to expose some of the darkest areas of our life.

As in most recovery gatherings, CR had a introduction protocol that would be followed by everyone that would allow each of us to share who we were and why we were there. The statement was as follows:

“ Hi, my name is _____ and I am a grateful follower of Jesus Christ that struggles with _____ “

Like all recovery programs, the goal is to separate the person from the disease so that we do not attach ourselves to the actual program. As I now know, this really did attempt to create a new identity or certainly it was an opportunity to try to separate ourselves from the addiction. Again, this is pretty standard in the recovery community.

The problem that I had when I was presenting myself was that if I were honest, I really didn't have an addiction and since I had a great family background, there were no issues from that standpoint. So I really was at a loss as to what to say and more importantly, what was wrong with me. That may sound crazy, but that is how I felt. In fact when I was in my small group with my guys, I really didn't talk much about my life except around some of the most obvious of sins like porn.

So my dilemma for my introduction was simple. What do I say? Everyone else had an answer to that question of what do you struggle with, but not me. Don't get me wrong, I was really struggling with shame, guilt, pain and the like, but I had no idea of the source of those symptoms. So my introduction was the same:

“ Hi, I am Bill Collins and I am a grateful follower of Jesus Christ and I struggle with not being the man that the Lord has created me to be “.

Actually, this was probably the most truthful statement that I could have ever had made publicly now that I understand the effects of a broken identity in Christ. As I understand things now, I believe that you can trace most, if not all of our personal issues to this one issue. While I have no science to back me up on that one, as you will come to read, renewing our minds around our identity in Christ brings tremendous healing to our lives.

Chapter 4

My journey of renewing my mind

The Lord ambushed me at a time when I was really looking for guidance. It was August 23, 2019 and my wife and I went to the movie theatre here in Fayetteville, Arkansas to watch *Overcomer*, which was all about our identity in Christ. As I watched this movie, something happened deep inside of me which I realized was the Holy Spirit ministering to my soul. But then there was a moment in the movie when a young lady stood in front of an audience and declared who she was from the perspective of the Bible and it was like a bomb exploded in my soul.

The next morning, I took this entire experience to the Lord and asked Him a simple question. “Do I have a problem with my identity? “. Our Father is merciful and in a loving and gentle way he began to show me that in fact, I did have a tremendous problem with my identity and that it was the source of much of the problems that I was experiencing. As the months went by, I knew that I was about to go on a journey with the Lord, but I had no idea of where we were heading or how long it would take to get there.

While I was still participating in our weekly Celebrate Recovery meetings, I started to feverishly do a lot of self study around the subject of identity, both Biblically and secular.

The breakthrough came near the end of 2019 when I found out that Lifeway was going to release a study program around the Overcomer Movie and it would be designed for small groups at churches. The 8-week study was called “Defined – Who God says that you are” and it was going to be released at the end of the year

Fortunately, my pastor at our church was a good friend of mine so I approached Jodie Ferrell and ask him if we could have an Overcomer Movie Night and then I would pitch the 8-week course to the church as a follow up. In early January, 2020 we hosted the Overcomer on a Friday night, complete with soda and popcorn and to my amazement over the next couple of weeks, 25 people signed up for the class which I started in early February.

To say that I felt completely unqualified to lead the class is a gross exaggeration, but I recruited some of my friends and my wife Diane to attend so that I could get some loving support. The experience was unlike anything that I had ever participated in as the Holy Spirit was active each week and you could see the transformation in people’s live taking place almost every week. Something was happening. But what and more importantly, why?

I received the answer to the “ Why “ question one night from one of the attendees, Ron Morris. Ron had been a pastor for a large church and had gone to seminary. I believe he had two or maybe even three graduate degrees so the guy was super smart and he always helped us with our theology questions when we got stuck.

One night Ron and I were driving back to his place. I believe we had just finished the sixth class and Ron could not stop talking about how much he loved the class and wished it would not end. Then he said two things that really shifted me. Ron said that he was beginning to feel like he did when he first met Christ. He had excitement and joy like he had not experienced in a long time. When I asked him why he thought that this was happening, he wasn't sure. Then I asked " But Ron, you studied this in seminary, didn't you ? " When he said " No ", it was like my head started to implode with thoughts that I could not process in the moment, but which linger to this day.

But just as fast as things had happened to create the class, they ended just as abruptly when our Pastor told us that they were shutting the church down because of Covid and that we could not finish the class. I was devastated as I felt like the enemy had stolen what could have been what I felt was just the start of a movement of the Spirit in our church.

As I took inventory of what was happening, not only in our church, but our country and the world, I just could not stop thinking about what I had seen God do in our class and knew that I had to find a way to press forward. I was able to get a key to the church and on a weekly and sometime bi-weekly basis I started to come into the church after work to study and strategize around how to teach, lead and even coach others to walk in their identity in Christ.

Little by little, things began to happen. I talked John Belew into meeting with me on a weekly basis and to just talk and pray. I had my other missionary friend Clark Lasse work with the Biblical understanding of scripture. In fact, in one meeting I asked Clark if he had studied the Book of Ephesians much. His response? "I just finished memorizing the entire Book". Enough said.

Then Holy Spirit inspired me to start to interview other people in our church about their identity and how it had been transformed. I ended up doing ten video interviews with people, most of them my friends. Clearly, our transformation was central to our faith, but I was always left with the thought that if this was so important, why couldn't we find ongoing teaching and community around helping us transform. Wouldn't that speed the process up instead of just plowing through on our own and having to figure all of this out. While I was encouraged by my growth, I was always left with a sense of overwhelm and questioned whether my time and effort were worth anything.

As I headed into the New Year of 2021, it was clear that everything was changing in our country and that we were still in for a long recovery time of healing. Our church as still shut down. Our Celebrate Recovery meetings were long gone and it seemed like the concept of community had become something that only existed in our memories. I had been working with Lifeway to find a way to teach the Defined Bible Study online. I built a website, launched the course but had a little success in making it work.

Diane and I were craving community and we knew we couldn't just wait for things to change in our lives so we made the tough decision to look for churches brave enough to hold Sunday services. We found one in Cross Church in Fayetteville and started to attend that service on a weekly basis until we finally decided to join in the middle of the year.

Diane and I had no desire to get involved in any of the church ministry because we were just burned out and needed healing. It had been a very long journey for both of us and we were just trying to find our footing in a world that seemed like it was changing all the time.

Months after our time of settlement, I connect with Pastor Jonathan Beasley. Not sure what attracted me to him initially. Maybe it was because he looked like he was close to my age and all of the other pastoral staff were young. In talking with Jonathan, it became clear that we had a lot in common and at some point I told him of my interest in teaching around our identity in Christ. He agreed to give me a key to the church so that I could begin to meet people on Saturday mornings which was the only time that I had available to connect with people.

As was normally the case, as soon as I started to connect with others around this subject, the Holy Spirit was activated and each week brought new revelation and breakthrough to people who were encountering their real identity.

The real breakthrough came in March, 2022 when I joined an online teaching community called TranzformU which is led by Rick Osborne. This is a one year discipleship teaching and training program around the how the word of God transforms us into the image of Christ. Much of that teaching is really around having the knowledge of Christ and who we are in Christ and as that continued to grow in me, I could tell that my mind was in fact being renewed, in a way that I have never experienced before.

Chapter 5

The transformation process

One of the most overlooked moves of the Spirit of the Lord was recorded in both Acts 19 and Ephesians 4 as it recaps a time when Paul engaged in daily teaching in The Hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus. What was Paul teaching the people to do? What was he saying? What was he doing? These are great questions worth pursuing because his two year's of work resulted in a massive awakening throughout the area. Remember, Paul only went one place to teach each day and he never had the advantage of the internet?

God has put it on my heart to write this ebook because I believe that it's important for people understand the same mental renewal process that Paul used. It is outlined in the Bible and it's simple. You just have to apply it. The Lord made it that way on purpose because everything is by grace through faith and so if we just look at it from grace, the Lord is going to do it. The promise of the new covenant is that He does it in us so we learn by faith

The Lord wants his children to grow up. He wants us to take part even though he's doing it in us. Yes, we have a free will and can do whatever we want, so we choose to renew our minds so that they are not conformed to the world.

So what is the ultimate goal of this process? It is for our transformation into the image of Christ in every part of your life. It's guaranteed. When people get this and understand what presenting themselves means, in other words what abiding in Christ means and what the process looks like and they start doing it in faith, even though they may be not understand it at the time, they're able to have an ongoing increase of transformation.

The Lord put this amazing secret into a little box and made the process simple. If we just unpack this, do it and believe that God is the one working it in you, then it's rocket fuel! This will get you to accelerate in your transformation like crazy because it is simple, repeatable and guaranteed.

Chapter 6

God does all of the work

So what does the word of God says about the mind renewal process and about us applying ourselves to it? Let's understand what this process is not. This is not the 5 easy steps to changing your life or just a way to chant a bunch of affirmations that build up our self-esteem. This is what the Bible teaches us so as we do that and apply ourselves to it, we will see real transformation.

The biggest challenge that anyone who embarks on this journey will have is that it is completely counterintuitive to the way that any of us have learned. No matter what age we are at, we all have been taught how to learn something new in many different ways, so all of us bring a lot of baggage around the process of growing in knowledge. What we all fail to grasp is that when man and woman fell into sin then our entire brain was corrupted. Let's call that the Old Mind.

Fast forward to our life today and with the overload of technology, evidence is now starting to suggest that due to overstimulation, our mental health is suffering in many different ways. In the past we were able to limit the amount of information that was coming into our brain, but now there are so many different avenues of entry that it's almost impossible to stop it. This leads to even more resistance to learning something that will go deep into our heart.

Another challenge with our currently learning system is that it's not personal or even emotional. It's really about quantity and not quality and so we all value the "next thing" that keeps us locked into waiting for the dopamine hit that comes from the next piece of content. Our current technology companies are masters of keeping your attention and even realizing that they can monetize it. I realize most of us do not think of it that way, but those are the cold hard facts as they are now being revealed to us in so many ways.

When it comes to our faith, it becomes even more of a challenge to have the word of the Lord written on our hearts. Think of it this way. The average American spends well over 5 hours a day on their smartphone. How does a pastor compete with that when most members of the church only come into attend the Sunday service for an hour each week.

Since we have not been taught how to present ourselves and specifically, how to speak the word out of our mouths, then this may explain why many people do not even remember much about the sermon as it never really impacted them in a deep way. I have a lot of theories around why that is, but because we have not been given a method for just integrating the word of God in our lives by first mediating on it and then speaking it out, clearly this creates a tremendous gap between what goes into our head and what really makes its way to the heart. With the right framework, anyone can learn how to present themselves in a way that will bring transformation.

Chapter 7

The mind renewal process

The Biblical mind renewal process works the opposite way that you might expect. When you at first look at how this works, it's such a simple process and it makes no sense to us. Why does it make no sense? Because in the Old Mind, we're used to thinking that this is who I am now and if I am going to be better, I have to try and do something to make it happen. When we use that reasoning, unfortunately that's working out of the Tree of Good and Evil. That's the idea we were separated from God and we need to get there somehow by our own doing.

So, if you have accepted Christ, then the process of understanding how our mind can activate God's word is to come from a different place. We all have a hard time understanding that when God says that all the old is gone, it's gone! Everything in Adam is gone. All the new is already come. You're not working towards perfection, you're working from perfection. Transformation and the gradual realization of who you already are in Christ comes from abiding and learning to abide. It is the incremental realization of how to walk in and abide and live in who you already in Him.

So at first our brain wants to fight. It will use logic and it will reject the truth of God. You will hear yourself say "Are you crazy, you don't believe this" or even "You can't say that about yourself because that is not true".

The challenge is that the word of God does not make sense to the Old Mind.

We have to start with the concept “I am going to believe what he says about me in the Bible“ That really is how the New Mind starts to be written on our hearts and then it takes practice. It really is a skill and one that takes some time, but if you plug into the “ I am in Christ “ process then you will find that you can quickly get up to speed on how to do this and that it will be a fun life skill that you can use the rest of your life.

Chapter 8

The Transformation Framework

Ephesians 4:20-24

Ephesians 4:20 -24 is one of our main scriptures that we want to commit to memory. Remember, it was Paul who led the revival in Ephesus. Later, when he was writing the Book of Ephesians, he was reminding them of how they were taught to be transformed into the image of Christ.

When Paul writes in Ephesians 4:20 “You however did not come to know Christ that way.” How did Paul know? He was the one who taught them when he was there. So, he's writing to them in the Book of Ephesians and he's refreshing their memory as to how he taught them. Paul was clear that the Ephesians would not get there unless they understood the framework by which they had been successful before. He mapped out this framework Ephesians 4:20-24.

²⁰ “That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

Ephesians 4:20-24

So, let's break this framework down by going verse by verse so that we can see how each element of this process impacts how we should be renewing our minds so that we can live out of the New Person.

Verse 4:20

"That, however, is not the way of life you learned "

This scripture was referenced in the earlier paragraph, but it's important to emphasize that Paul must have seen something that was happening at the Church of Ephesus that alerted him that their learning process had started to go the wrong direction. Again, because he had been there before and had used the Ephesians 4:20-24 framework with much success, he wanted to emphasize that there was a specific way to learn the New Man Mindset.

Verse 4:21

²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus

Paul amazingly sets the standard by how the Ephesians (and us) are to be taught. So according to Paul, who is our teacher? Jesus. Clearly, people first have to hear about Christ, but once that happens then who is going to teach them according to Paul? It's Jesus himself. This is such a profound concept but this one idea was clearly behind the success that Paul had because he knew that if people were "in Christ " then they wouldn't need him (Paul) to keep teaching them.

Verse 4:22

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;

Paul actually starts with the idea of putting off the Old Man first. I believe that this is strategic. So often the believer forgets that he or she has not only accepted Christ as their Savior but in many cases, they have been baptized. That means that the Old Man is dead! Dead, dead, dead! The person that we use to be no longer exists and it is critical to remind ourselves of that when we look at our lives and are listening to the echo of the past. This is so important because by putting off the Old Man, we are able to disable the lies of the enemy about who we are in Christ.

Verse 4:23

; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds;

This is the key to the mind renewal process and something all of us should be focused on when we go to the word of God. When we are led by the Spirit as we are growing in the word, we can be confident that the Lord will do the work in us. This is not something that we want to strive to achieve and we believe the Holy Spirit will not just give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation about what we are learning, but that the truths will drop into our hearts and we will become the living word of God.

Verse 4:24

24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”

The last concept of this spiritual framework is to put on our New Man which is created in the image of God. This is the concept around being “in Christ“. One of the best ways that I have understood this to work in my life is to envision that the Old Man who died is being replaced by the New Man that is Christ himself, his entire life. So imagine that when you read scripture, when you read about the life of Christ, that this is your life. Christ died for you and you want all that he died for so that means his entire lifein you!

This is not only true about who God says that you are, but also of all of the promises that scripture references that are for you. When you are “in Christ“, you are a new person and with that person, you are given all of the things that Christ died for. Don't you want all that Christ died for in your life? If not, ask yourself “ Why not “?

So your “presentation“ is something that we want to not only understand but to live out of which is why the The 7 Day “ Ask Me Who I am “ Challenge is such a great place to start to learn how to walk in this.

Chapter 9

Presenting Yourself

Romans 12:1-2

We now have arrived at the centerpiece of your transformational experience and this is how we present ourselves. What does that mean? So imagine one day that you were invited to go visit with the King and Queen of England and that they were going to set aside some time to visit with you so that they could get to know you better. Now imagine that you were given a week to get ready for your visit. How would you prepare? What would you need to study or learn so that when you got to England, you would be prepared for your presentation.

In the above scenario, I doubt that you would dress in run down clothing or that you would be unclean. You would understand that you were going to visit with people that have high standards and that you were important.

So what does this have to do with Romans 12:1-2. Well, everything. We have a tendency to really focus on verse 2, but it is verse one that sets up the idea of presenting yourself. So let's visit the scripture and refresh our memory as to what is written:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12: 1-2

Many times we look at verse 1 as a reminder that we are to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice but let's put this in the context of the Old Man vs New Man. Let's imagine this time that instead of being invited to visit with the King and Queen of England, you are actually being invited to visit with our Father, the God of the Universe. How would you prepare for that time with the Lord?

But here is an even more important question. Who would you want to be when you went to visit with the Lord, the Old Man or the New Man? By that we mean, if you have accepted Christ and you are new creation, isn't that how the Lord would look at you, from the place of being "in Christ". His son died for you and so all of the Old Man is gone. So, would you want to bring that Old Man into this visit with the Lord? Probably not, because if you did then the Lord may look at you and wonder who that person is.

You would on the other hand want to meet with the Lord in the person that he created you to be, which is in the New Man. When you met with our Father, you would want to come in agreement with him as to who he said that you are in His eyes. This is presenting yourself!

Chapter 10

Conclusion

Lessons from The Hall of Tyrannus

“Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.” Acts 19:8-10

After three months of preaching in the synagogue at Ephesus, Paul knew it was time for a strategic change. After praying for God’s direction, he decided to plant a church in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. Following two years of preaching daily in the lecture hall, the whole city was aflame in revival and the whole province of Asia had heard the Gospel.

What was so strategic about Paul leaving the synagogue and moving his evangelistic efforts to the lecture hall of Tyrannus?

First, Paul wasn’t just leaving the synagogue. He was leaving the hardened, resistant soil of the Jewish community in Ephesus. Unlike many Christians, Paul was not interested in simply winning his own friends or ethnic

groups to Christ, but instead he always searched for the most receptive spiritual “soil” of a region.

He found this receptivity in the Gentile citizens of Ephesus. Second, when Paul went to The Hall of Tyrannus, he was penetrating one of the city’s major centers of influence. Unlike the insular, cloistered, religious world of the synagogue, the lecture hall of Tyrannus was a place where ideas were exchanged and philosophy was discussed.

It was also a place where the city’s brightest young people were being molded and shaped for the future. Paul realized he would never be able to transform the culture of Ephesus if he did not first transform the campuses of Ephesus.

It is no different for us today. If we are not committed to reaching the university campuses of our society, we will never be able to change the world.

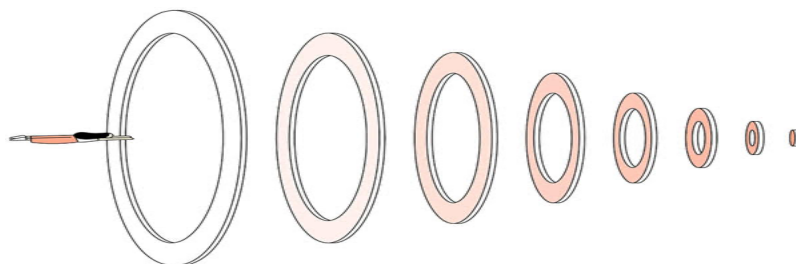
Whether it is because of the millions of young people they are training and educating, or the fact that their professors shape the values of every facet of our society through their writings and research, the university campus should be prioritized among the most strategic evangelistic targets of the Church today.

Evangelizing these campuses, however, will be no simple matter. The name of the man who owned the lecture hall where Paul was working out of was Tyrannus, which means tyrant. Whether his mother and father named him that or that was the name given to him by his students, we will never know. Whatever the case may be, the word tyrant or tyranny, describes one of the major barriers we will face in our attempts to penetrate the world's campuses.

Although universities are reputed to be places where the free exchange of ideas is welcomed, this is usually not the case. If your ideas have anything to do with the validity of the Christian faith, the divinity of Christ or moral absolutes, they are not welcomed and may even be brutally suppressed.

Yet, despite the battles that must be waged to liberate the campuses from their intellectual and moral tyranny, these strategic centers of influence are worth all the effort it will take to win them, because winning them is the key to winning our whole world.

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