



GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#76)

Good News – Paul, our role model for change

The GOOD NEWS results in CHANGES!

People who **ACCEPT** the Good News FACTS (as well as the commands*)

... the obedience that comes from faith.
Romans 1:5b (NIV)

will **EXPERIENCE**

... filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ...
Philippians 1:11a (CSB)

CHANGES in their thinking, motives and actions.

And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself just as he [Jesus] is pure.
1 John 3:3 (CSB)

* (We will start considering the commands next time.)

WHAT ARE THOSE CHANGES? THE BIBLE SHOWS US!

IT SHOWS US THROUGH: ✓ Direct statements
✓ Examples

➤ **TODAY:**

We look at the **#1 example** of what can happen when Good News FACTS take over a person's life.

That example is: The Apostle PAUL!

... God had mercy on me, so that Christ Jesus could use me as a **prime example** of his great patience with even the worst sinners.
1 Tim. 1:16b (NLT)

¿?!?

THE APOSTLE PAUL? HE'S **WAY TOO SPIRITUAL!**

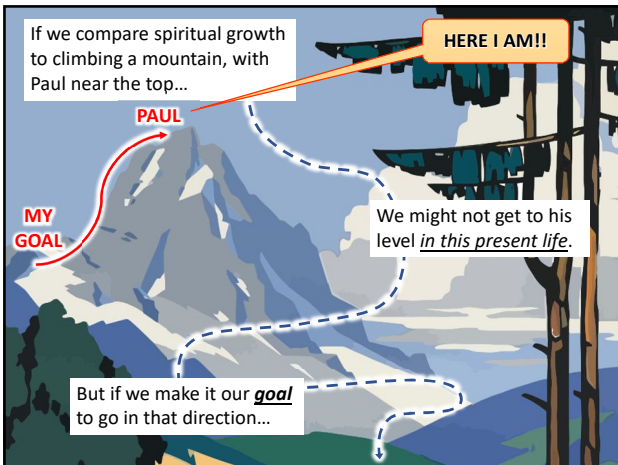
HOW COULD I EVER COMPARE ME TO HIM??

NOT IN 10 LIFETIMES!

I COULD **NEVER** REACH HIS LEVEL!!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO REACH HIS LEVEL!!

GOD PROVIDES EXAMPLES LIKE PAUL, SO THAT WE CAN KNOW THE DIRECTION TO GO!



If we compare spiritual growth to climbing a mountain, with Paul near the top...

HERE I AM!!

PAUL

MY GOAL

We might not get to his level *in this present life.*

But if we make it our **goal** to go in that direction...



We won't end up in the Devil's swamp!

OUR ULTIMATE EXAMPLE IS JESUS CHRIST – THE ONE WHO WAS WITHOUT SIN.

- ✓ Jesus himself tells us to learn from him.

Take my yoke upon you and **learn from me**, ...
Matthew 11:29a (NIV)

- ✓ People who claim to belong to Jesus must follow his example.

Whoever claims to live in him must **walk as Jesus did**.
1 John 2:6 (NIV)

- ✓ When it comes to love for others...

Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.
Philip. 2:5 (GW)

- ✓ When it comes to suffering...

Christ, who suffered for you, is **your example**. **Follow** in his steps.
1 Peter 2:21b (NLT)

WE ARE ALSO TOLD TO FOLLOW PAUL'S EXAMPLE! BECAUSE HE WAS FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE.

Therefore I urge you
to **imitate me**.
1 Cor. 4:16 (CSB)

And you should **follow my
example**, just **as I follow Christ's**.
1 Cor. 11:1 (NLT)

We can learn from anyone who follows Christ, to
whatever extent they are actually doing so.

(We shouldn't be surprised if we see imperfection
in imperfect humans! (Don't learn those things!))

SCRIPTURE ALSO GIVES US OTHER EXAMPLES, SUCH AS...

- ✓ Hebrews 11 gives several instances of people who trusted God.
- ✓ According to James 5:11, Job (in the Old Testament) teaches us about patient endurance.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM PAUL'S EXAMPLE?

– OR –

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE GOOD NEWS CONTROLS ONE'S LIFE?

⇒ Some basic principles, before and after the Good News change:

- Before the Good News change: Paul's life shows us that people can think they are following God, yet actually be fighting him.
- (After) We can see what happens when the Good News changes a person – what effect the New Covenant has on him.
- (After) We can see that trusting God and faithfully serving him does not depend on circumstances: It can be done even in unfavorable circumstances.
- [You can learn more principles, as you learn more about Paul.]

⇒ Some specific examples (after the Good News change):

- He didn't distort or "repackage" the truth, but faithfully proclaimed it all.

Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the
blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to
you the whole will of God.

Acts 20:26-27 (NIV)

- He did not take financial advantage of those he preached to. He taught people to work for a living.*

"I have never coveted anyone's money or fine clothing. You know that these hands of mine have worked to pay my own way, and I have even supplied the needs of those who were with me. And I have been a constant example of how you can help the poor by working hard."

Acts 20:33-35a (NLT)

* (There may be situations in which receiving financial help is legitimate. But "financial gain" is not one of them!)

- He didn't omit God from his interaction with people.

Just before dawn Paul urged them all [on the ship] to eat.
After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to
God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to
eat.

Acts 27:33a, 35 (NIV)

- He publicly acknowledged his trust in God.

"But I admit that I follow the Way [of Christ]"

Acts 24:14a (NLT)

So have courage, men! I trust God that everything
will turn out as he told me.

Acts 27:25 (GW)

- He had respect for human authority – even those who were in the wrong.

Scripture says, "Don't speak evil about a ruler of your people."

Acts 23:5b (GW)

(See v. 1-5. In this passage, the ruler was clearly in the wrong.)

- He trusted God in the midst of persecution. He accepted trials as part of God's will.

"We must go through many hardships to enter
the kingdom of God," they said.

Acts 14:22b (NIV)

After they had been severely flogged, they were
thrown into prison, ... About midnight Paul and
Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, ...

Acts 16:23a, 25a (NIV)

THERE ARE MORE EXAMPLES TO BE FOUND!

- ✓ We can learn from Paul's example, and from the examples of other godly people.
- ✓ We can even learn from bad examples... ungodly people.
 - ↳ *if we do the opposite of what they did!*

THEY SINNED... BUT I'M GOING TO FOLLOW JESUS!

- ✓ We can learn how to respond in various types of situations.
- ✓ We can learn principles from non-repeatable events.

I'M OBVIOUSLY NOT AN "APOSTLE PAUL." BUT AS I SEE HOW GOD WORKED IN HIS LIFE, IT SHOWS ME THAT I CAN TRUST GOD WITH MY LIFE!

WE CAN LEARN GENUINE LESSONS AND PRINCIPLES!

- ✓ There is no need for creative inventions that have nothing to do with the intent of the passage!

WHEN THE SHIP SANK, THEY ALL MADE IT SAFELY TO SHORE. SOME WERE CLINGING TO FLOATING PLANKS FROM THE BROKEN SHIP.

"Distorted" example based on Acts 27:41-44.

WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US? SIMPLY THIS: WHEN THE "SHIP OF LIFE" IS SINKING, HOLD ON TO THE "PLANK OF SALVATION"!

THIS IS NOT WHAT LUKE HAD IN MIND, WHEN HE WROTE THIS DOWN!

LUKE WAS SHOWING HOW GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE TO PAUL, TO GET HIM TO ROME! (See Acts 27:23-26.)

OUR MISSION ... PART 1: "LIVE!"

Each of us...

has a purpose in life, a calling by which we can serve God.

Even if we don't know what our calling is...

God has given us gifts and abilities, so that we can express love to God and people.

After all...

God didn't create us so that we could live for ourselves!

For we are not our own masters when we live or when we die.

While we live, we live to please the Lord. And when we die, we go to be with the Lord. So in life and in death, we belong to the Lord.

Romans 14:7-8 (NLT)

OUR MISSION ... PART 2: "LEARN!"

Our circumstances will normally be different from the godly people in the Bible. But the principles that guided their lives can guide ours.

IF THE GOOD NEWS FACTS (AND COMMANDS) ARE CHANGING US, WE CAN USE PAUL'S EXHORTATION AS OUR GOAL:

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philip. 4:8-9 (NIV)

In Paul's day, the people could observe Paul in person. Today, we can read about what he said and did in Scripture.

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