

Observe

&

*A close
examination of
the church in
Philippi*

Pattern

Principle

Observe A close and intimate look into the church at Philippi & **Pattern**

The second Scriptural principle we will be looking at in this series is entitled “Observe and Pattern”. In this study we will be looking at the walk these early Christians had in the region of Philippi and examine very closely what Paul had to say to them.

200,000,000 +/- Christians face persecution DAILY.....

70,000,000 +/- Christians have been martyred since the crucifixion....most within the 20th & 21st centuries.

Before we begin to look into this Scriptural principle, it is necessary to examine some of the statistics of Christian persecution. Approximately two hundred million Christians face persecution daily, that’s almost the same number as the population of the United States....it is over 1/3 of Christianity that walks in persecution for their faith...today. Over 70,000,000 have been martyred since the crucifixion of Jesus. There have been more Christians martyred just since 1973 than in all of Christian history combined up to that point.

“ If what some Christian leaders are saying is true, then sooner or later the Church must face two alternatives: sociopolitical compromise with anti-Christian forces or incur the wrath of a controlled political-religious hierarchy. In that case, Wurmbrand is right--- **We must prepare now.**

Since these two alternatives have already been posed in many parts of the world, there is no reason to believe that the area where we live will continue to escape their realities. Let us then, as Christians, prepare ourselves now and be sure that our children have a clear example before them if their turn comes.”

Taken from the foreword of “The Triumphant Church”

This next slide is part of the forward taken from the book “The Triumphant Church” written by Richard Wurmbrand, John Piper and Martin Milton. This excellent book can be purchased from the Voice of the Martyrs by calling 1-800-747-0085 or on line at <https://www.vombooks.com/>. I personally believe this book should be classified as a training manual for the days we are about to walk through. It says; “If what some **Christian leaders** are saying is true, then sooner or later the Church **must** face two alternatives: sociopolitical

compromise with antichristian forces or incur wrath of a controlled political-religious hierarchy. In that case, Wurmbrand is right, **we must prepare now.**

The statement “we must prepare now” was taken from the first article in this book entitled “Preparing for the Underground Church Now”. Richard Wurmbrand, the founder of Voice of the Martyrs, spent 14 years in a Communist Romanian prison for his faith in Jesus

Christ and was very familiar with Christian persecution. The church in the 21st century is either going to **STAND FIRM** for Jesus Christ, and incur wrath, or they will compromise their faith and fall away so they will not have to suffer loss. Part of the preparation process involves a close examination of saints walking correctly (or Biblically), that is what this second study is all about. It's a very interesting fact that the way a financial institution trains their employees to spot counterfeit money is by giving them real bills and having them study them out very carefully.

The forward goes on to say: "since these two alternatives have already been posed in many parts of the world, there is no reason to believe that the area where we live will continue to escape their realities". We covered this part in the initial study showing that a "wishing and hoping" theology is in no way Biblical and that we best be ready for whatever comes our way before Jesus returns. So.....as Christians we had better prepare ourselves, our family, and our church family to **STAND FIRM** for Jesus in a world that wants to eliminate everything about Him. Let's see what the apostle Paul has to say about this issue.

Philippians 3:17
Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.



We are going to start this study in the third chapter of Philippians, the seventeenth verse. Before we read the verse together we need to note that Paul is writing to a group of people he loved dearly. He was not correcting them for wrong doing, like in the letters to the Corinthians, he is commending them. He says: "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us". In the slides that follow we are going to look at this portion of scripture very carefully and see just exactly what

Paul was saying to them.....and why.

Historical facts

- Paul was in his Roman imprisonment when he wrote this letter, 10 years after this church was founded.
- These were intelligent Greek speaking people whom Paul knew would understand what he was instructing them in.
- At the time of the writing of this letter they were already suffering some persecution for their faith.
- Paul loved these people very much and was giving them valuable information as to their walk in Christ.



Before we get into the meat of this verse we need to put this all into context with some historical facts. First of all we need to identify the time that this letter was written. Almost all Biblical scholars agree that this letter was written during Paul's house arrest in Rome, approximately 10 years after the church at Philippi was founded. This will be important to note in the next slide. Secondly, these were intelligent "Greek" speaking people he was writing to, they were not nomads living in tents.

They were people who dealt in commerce on the trade route that went from Egypt into Europe; they perhaps even spoke several different languages in order to do business. He knew they would understand what he was writing them by the way it was written. This too will be important to note. Thirdly, as Paul was penning this letter the church at Philippi was already starting to suffer persecution (see Chapter 1:27-30). And lastly, because of Paul's intense love for these saints he was giving them (*and us*) some of the most valuable teachings in all of Scripture; prepare to suffer for your "faith walk".

Philippians 3:17

*Brethren, join in following my example, and observe **those who walk** according to the pattern you have in **US**.* (NASB)

*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark **them which walk** so as ye have **US** for an ensample* (KJV)



Let's return to Philippians 3:17. As you can see on the slide I have written it out in two separate translations, the New American Standard and the King James. They basically say the same thing but the two words "observe" and "pattern" are actually closer to the original Greek which will prove very important in the slides that follow.

Before we look at that part we need to examine two other things contained in this verse. First of all, Paul uses the term "us" at the end of the verse implying that there were others with him there in

Rome and others in their region that were walking out the same pattern. This is important for us to realize that it does not take "SUPER SAINTS" to accomplish what God desires, it only takes faithful men and women. Some of them were the saints from the church in Rome, others were from Thessalonica, another, was Timothy, the faithful student and companion of Paul. Secondly, we need to look at the 5 words right at the beginning of the verse: "join in following my example". This was not an easy thing he was asking of them. The next slide will detail what happens to people who walk a *Biblical Christian walk* instead of a *Cultural Christian walk*.***IMPORTANT SIDE NOTE...whenever someone follows the correct example....persecution is automatic...it will find you!

2 Corinthians 11:24-28

Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine {lashes.} Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. {I have been} on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from {my} countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; {I have been} in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. Apart from {such} external things, there is the daily pressure on me {of} concern for all the churches.

Second Corinthians 11:24-28 is one of those very pointed portions of Scripture. Paul was not writing this to invoke sympathy from his readers, he was describing what happens when you “*walk the talk*”. An important thing to note here is the date that this letter was written. Again most scholars agree that this letter was written several years before Paul’s house arrest in Rome. Before we move into the next slide take a few minutes and read this portion of Scripture together. I think it will speak to us very loudly in regard to a *Biblical*

Christian’s walk verses a *Cultural Christian’s walk*.

Philippians 3:17

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in US. (NASB)

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have US for an ensample. (KJV)

We can see now that what Paul was writing to these saints that he loved dearly was not an easy thing to receive. You see, when these brothers and sisters obeyed Paul and “followed his example” the natural byproduct of that would be persecution, as it is today for all those who choose to live Godly in Christ Jesus as stated in 2 Timothy 3:12. He could have told them to just ease up a little about Jesus. They could still have church, and pray, and sing, and have fellowship dinners, just

stay inside and don’t make a big deal about Jesus Christ out there in the world.....and you’ll be safe that way. He tells them that if they want to make it through the persecution and come out on the other side victorious they need to FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE. Paul knew what was going to happen to these people.....they were going to be beaten with rods, and stoned, and burned at the stake and crucified on crosses.....again, all the way down through Christian history people who follow the CORRECT example receive the privilege of persecution (see Philippians 1:29).

But Paul didn’t stop there he continued on by saying “**and**’ observe those who walk, he had much more instruction for them. This word “**observe**” is one of those depth words in New Testament Greek. We will examine this very carefully on the next slide.

Observe....("mark" in KJV)....

Gr.....Skopeo

The literal meaning is to **focus intently upon**, fully examining the object you are observing, contemplate. (Not just casual looking or glancing)...Gr.....blepo

We get our English word "**scope**" from the Greek root word (*skopus*).



Observe, or "mark" in the King James, is the Greek word *skopeo*. The literal meaning of this word taken from the Strong's concordance is to **focus intently upon**, fully examining the object you are observing, contemplate. We get our English word "scope" from the Greek root word *Skopus*. What is a scope used for, a microscope, a telescope or a scope on a rifle? We use these instruments to fully examine something so we can understand it completely. The word "mark" in the King James was translated that way because in

that time period they would MARK their targets brightly so they could hit them with their instruments of war.

4648 (Skopeo) [is more pointed than **991 (blepo)**], often meaning "to scrutinize, **observe**" When the physical sense recedes, "to fix one's (mind's) eye on, direct one's attention to" a thing in order to get it, or owing to interest in it, or a duty towards it. Hence often the same as "to aim at, care for etc."

Strong, J. 1996. The exhaustive concordance of the Bible



As you can see by this slide the word *Skopeo* really is a very precise word, not one used casually. I can imagine Paul pondering this letter and choosing just the right words to capture the reader's attention as to the seriousness of the content.

Skopeo

Luke 11:35 "Then **watch** out that the light in you is not darkness.

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, **keep your eye on** those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

2 Corinthians 4:18 while we **look** not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal

Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; {each one} **looking** to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

Philippians 2:4 do not {merely} **look** out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.



The word *Skopeo* is only used 6 times in the whole New Testament, another indicator that the content was of a very serious nature. Just look at some of these verses; "watch out".....and "keep your eye on". You can see the great difference between casually glancing at something and really **observing**. Think of this in relation to studying for a test in Algebra. Do you bring home your book and casually flip through the pages.....or do you pour over every word and formula so you can

PASS THE TEST. That gives us an idea of how serious Paul was about this matter.

Philippians 3:17

*Brethren, join in following my example, and **observe** those who walk according to the pattern you have in **US**.* (NASB)

*Brethren, be followers together of me, and **mark** them which walk so as ye have **US** for an ensample* (KJV)

So, if we go back to the verse and re-read it with all of this in mind, it should take on a whole new meaning. “Brethren, join in following my example, and now let’s really, really examine very carefully, actually study out.....*those who walk*.....notice he didn’t say to just listen to people talking about walking.....he said you very carefully scrutinize those individuals who are walking a very specific pattern.....a **Biblical Christian’s walk**. This is going to be extremely important if we are going to fully understand

Christian persecution. On the next slide we will examine very carefully the next word.....pattern.



Before we examine the word “pattern” we need to find out who Paul is referring to when he mentions “those who walk”. The region that the church of Philippi was located in was Macedonia. Paul was led by the Spirit to go to this region and preach the gospel (Acts 16:9). This was a strategic area for the Gospel as it was the gateway to Europe. The other church in the region was the church at Thessalonica. This church

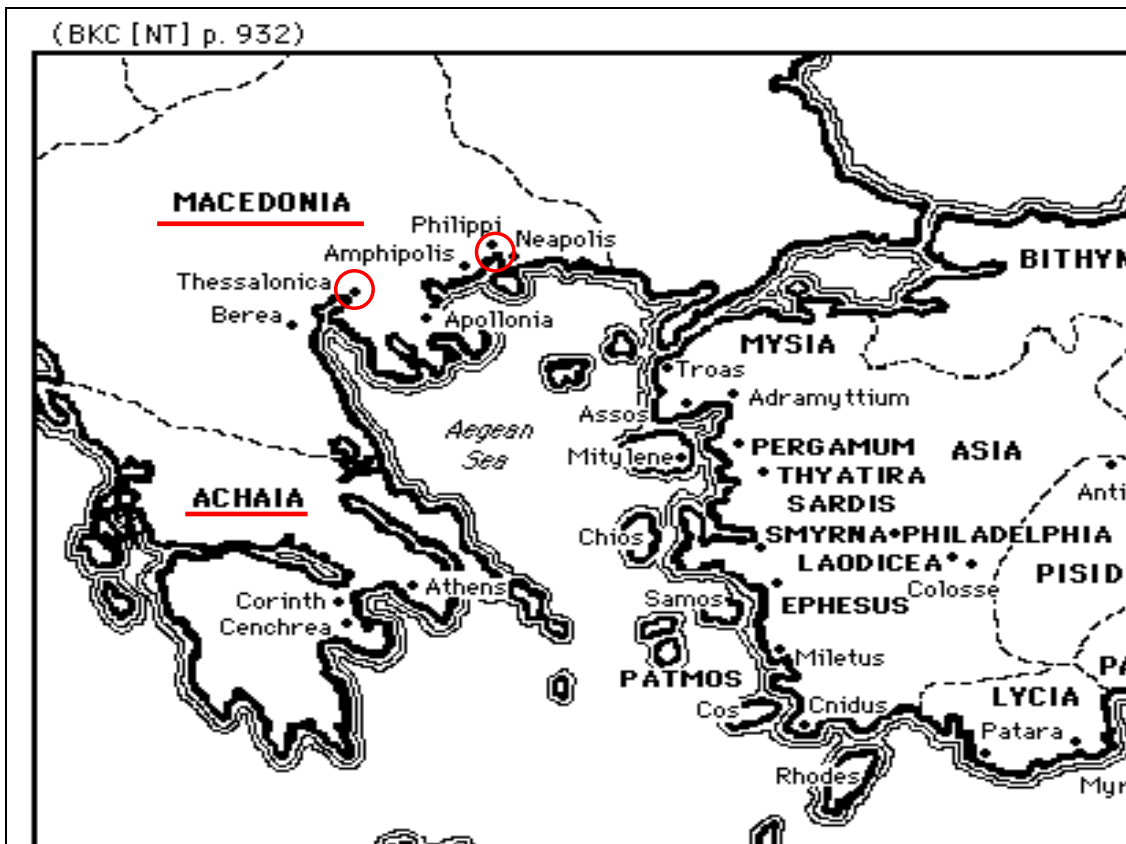
was already under severe persecution but standing strong. The next slide will tell of these precious saints. This was also the capital of the Roman province and the center of Roman administration. The persecution from the government was already starting in this area before it spread to Phillipi.

observe **those who walk.....**

1 Thess 1:2-8 ¶ We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention (of you) in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, (His) choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. **You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.**

In 1 Thessalonians 1:2-8 you can plainly see that this church was founded under persecution and remained faithful to Jesus and the gospel in the midst. They did so with great joy of the Holy Spirit, pure joy, not a phony, trumped up happiness to try to make a person feel good about their situation. This is where Paul mentions to them that they have become an **example** to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia....even their neighbors in Phillipi, 80 miles away. There is a very important scriptural principle at work in this

church....the word of the Lord WENT FORTH....they were walking and talking the gospel of Jesus Christ in **every** place their feet touched, they were ***exporters*** of the gospel. Paul was so impressed with these folks that he told them he had no need to say anything in the way of correction, unlike their neighbors to the South in Corinth. (see map again)



Pattern...("ensample" in KJV).....Gr.....Tupos

*The literal meaning is to be an example, or a **mold / die-cast**. This word **directly refers** back to verse 10 of chapter 3 in Philippians.... especially the last few words..."being conformed to His death."*



The word "pattern", or ensample in the King James Version, has a dual meaning. One is to be an example and the other a mold or a die-cast. Paul used this word in his letter to help the church at Philippi get a full picture of the walk a true disciple has. I truly believe that God had much more in mind than educating the church at Philippi; He was thinking way down the road. Paul was pointing them back to a point in the letter where he had written out the correct pattern,

chapter 3 verse 10. We will see a little later in the study how a "mold or die-cast" ties into the last few words of verse 10; "being conformed to His death. But before we take a detailed look at Philippians 3:10 we need to keep all this in context so we can really see the heart of the apostle. We need to go back to Philippians 3:7 to see what prompted his writing out the pattern. ***Phil 3:7-9*** *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from {the} Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which {comes} from God on the basis of faith,*

Philippians 3:10

that I may **know** Him **and** the **power of His resurrection** **and** the **fellowship** of His sufferings, **being conformed** to His death;



Now, you will notice that the beginning of verse 10 starts with the word "that" which is not capitalized for it is a continuation of verse 9 after a comma. It is actually a piece of a very long sentence that we must look at in its entirety. Paul is re-emphasizing "the surpassing value of knowing Christ" with this portion of the sentence. In it he is writing out a progressive statement, meaning that the end result, "being conformed to His death", can only be accomplished through completing the first 3 statements. This is known

by the words "and, and & being" between the statements themselves. So if the end goal was to be found "conformed to His death" then we need to examine the 3 statements very carefully. We must also remember that Paul was writing to intelligent Greek speaking people, people who he knew would understand what he was telling them by the way the words were written.

That I may *know* Him....
ginōskō from a prim. root *gnō*; to come to know,
recognize, perceive:—ascertaining

Thomas, R. L. 1998, 1981. New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition .
Foundation Publications, Inc.: Anaheim

Acts 19:15 ...And the evil spirit answered and said to them, “ I *recognize* Jesus, and I *know about* (ἐπίσταμαι /ep-is-tam-ahee/) Paul, but who are you?”

John 14:17...that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or *know* Him, but you *know* Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

In the first statement Paul uses a very specific Greek word for “know”. The word is *ginosko*. It has much more of a precise meaning than *gnosis*, the word used for “knowledge”. With *ginosko* it comes with the connotation that it is knowledge obtained through experience.....or experiential knowledge. It would be like explaining to a 2 year old about the hot burner on the stove. You tell them about the burner and the fire underneath. You show them pictures of the fire under the burner. You tell them not to touch the burner

because it is hot and it will burn you. You have given the child *gnosis* but the child will not *ginosko* that whole concept until he or she touches the hot burner and gets a burn. That is knowledge gained through experience. Acts 19:15 is a classic verse that has the two words side by side. You see, evil spirits *ginosko* Jesus because He has already judged them and found them guilty and will be the one to cast them into the lake of fire.....they “**KNOW**” Jesus. And they know about Paul because of what they have heard or seen of him, but nothing like the experiential knowledge of Jesus. So how does this apply to Paul’s readers, simple, Paul was saying that he must have experiential knowledge of Jesus.....just knowing about him wasn’t good enough.....he had to “know” Him the way Jesus requires us to “know” Him. We have to know Him in the same way. Paul was putting his full trust and weight into Jesus. If we go back and re-read verses 8 and 9 you will see this very clearly. ***“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from {the} Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which {comes} from God on the basis of faith,”***

Now, Paul was advising his readers in Philippi to put their full trust and weight in Jesus Christ if they were going to move on to the next step and have a chance to survive the persecution that inevitably comes when you follow the correct pattern. Putting one’s full trust and weight in Jesus Christ is much more than simply knowing about Him and mouthing a little prayer...it is being regenerated by His Spirit and walking in the faith that comes from that....counting all things as rubbish....in other words, we need to die so that He may live. We would be very wise to heed the same counsel Paul gives his readers.

*****IMPORTANT NOTE*****

A full explanation of “**KNOWING**” Jesus as He requires us to “**KNOW**” Him is found in the periodical “**AN IDOL CALLED EVANGELISM**” by Dr. Roy Hargrave that is available upon request from CPP Institute. cppinstitute@alltel.net

And the power of His resurrection

dunamis; from 1410; (miraculous) power, might, strength
anastasis; from 450; a standing up, i.e. a resurrection, a raising up, rising

Thomas, R. L. 1998, 1981. New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition . Foundation Publications, Inc.: Anaheim

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Paul was saying that he must **Know** this power....**WHY?**



(experiential knowledge of the power). Romans 8:11 tells us that this power that raised Jesus from the dead (God's Holy Spirit) actually dwells in those who "**ginosko**" Jesus. Why do you think Paul had to know this power this intimately? Could it be that when you are dead to yourself and Jesus is living in and through you, the power that you **STAND** in has to be something beyond your mortal flesh.....Paul had to know this power in this way to be able to **STAND FIRM** when he was beaten with rods, stoned, flogged and persecuted in so many ways. He was advising his readers (then and now) that if you don't stand in His power, chances are you won't stand at all.....you will "fall away" as stated in many parts of Scripture. History reveals that many in the church of Philippi heeded Paul's admonitions and successfully stood and carried the gospel into Europe and beyond. What can be learned from the saints today that are walking in the same power and suffering some of the same persecutions?

And the Fellowship of His sufferings

[*koinonia* /koy-nohn-ee-ah/] n f. From 2844; 20 occurrences; AV translates as "fellowship" 12 times, "communion" four times, "communication" once, "distribution" once, "contribution" once, and "to communicate" once

Strong, J. 1996. The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the text of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order. (electronic ed.). Woodside Bible Fellowship.: Ontario

Colossians 1:24

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ' afflictions.



Before we move into this next step we have to remember that step 1 and 2 have to be established in your life before you can even understand step 3. This is the reason many Christians never experience the depth of God's love for them because of their unwillingness to die to themselves and let Christ live in and through them. The key to this step is in the word "fellowship". It is the Greek word "**koionia**", one of the most intimate words in the Greek language. It is used several times to communicate the relationship we have with the Father, through Jesus in the power of the Spirit. It is much more than fellowship halls, or fellowship dinners or fellowship groups. What Paul has done is take a very intimate term and combined it with the sufferings Jesus experienced before He actually

died on the cross. What Paul was truly saying is that because of his knowing (*ginosko*) Jesus and experiencing His power in his life as he stood for Him, he could fully experience Jesus through sharing in His sufferings.....a very rich area of Christianity that most Christians never experience because of not understanding steps 1 & 2.

Look at Colossians 1:24.....”I rejoice in my sufferings”.....was Paul a masochist.....or do you think that he possibly discovered something that made him complete in Christ.....or a measurement..... ***Eph 4:13 “until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”***

It is in reference to the Church’s afflictions, which are “Christ’s afflictions, that Paul here saith, “ fill up the deficiencies,”or “what remain behind of the afflictions of Christ.”**She is afflicted to promote her growth in holiness, and her completeness in Christ. Not one suffering is lost (Ps 56:8). All her members have thus a mutual interest in one another’s sufferings (1Co 12:26).**

Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. 1997. A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments. On spine: Critical and explanatory commentary. Logos Research Systems, Inc.: Oak Harbor, WA

The statement in the last slide “in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions” there has been some misunderstanding of what Paul is really saying here. I have taken an excerpt from a commentary that helps us see this clearly. Paul was saying that the afflictions that he was experiencing were for the good of the Body of Christ (the church) that it promoted her growth in holiness and her completeness in Christ. It’s like an extension of the sufferings experienced by Jesus which are a natural byproduct of the true

church as it functions in holiness and completeness.



John Piper puts it best in his excerpt from “The Triumphant Church”; *“Paul’s sufferings complete Christ’s afflictions not by adding anything to their worth, but by extending them to the people they were meant to save. What is lacking in the afflictions of Christ is not that they are deficient in worth, as though they could not sufficiently cover the sins of all who believe. What is lacking is that the infinite value of Christ’s afflictions is not known and trusted in the world. These afflictions and what they mean are still hidden to most peoples. And God’s intention is that the mystery be revealed to all the nations. So the afflictions of Christ are “Lacking” in the sense that they are not seen and known and loved among the nations. They must be carried by ministers of the word. And those ministers of the word “complete” what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ by extending them to others.*

***The Triumphant Church* can be purchased at; <https://www.vombooks.com/>**

Being **Conformed** to His death.

[*summorphos* /soom·mor·fos/] adj. From 4862 and 3444; Two occurrences; AV translates as “conformed to” once, and “fashioned like unto”

Strong, J. 1996. The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the test of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order. (electronic ed.). Woodside Bible Fellowship: Ontario

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become **conformed** to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;



This last step is a culmination of the other 3 and the reason Paul used the Greek word “*tupos*” in the phrase “...observe those who walk according to the pattern.....”. If you remember the opening slides in this study the word can mean an example or a mold or die-cast. The word “conformed” means to be ***pressed into a mold***. If you are conformed into the correct mold (Jesus Christ in His completeness) when you are popped out of that mold you look like Him, you talk like Him and your actions reflect His actions. Paul had

some stern warnings to his readers in Romans 12.... ***Rom 12:2*** “***And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.***” If you are pushed into the mold of the world when you are popped out you look like the world, you talk like the world and your actions reflect those of the world system, which is **anti-christ**.

What Paul is saying is that we are to focus intently upon (skopeo) those who are walking out their faith to the point that it costs them something...and.....we are to pattern (tupos) our walk after theirs. In Paul's time it was he and the brothers and sisters in the church of Thessalonica, today it is over 200,000,000 that are exhibiting this correct pattern.

Who do you look up to as a mentor or teacher? Would you like to consider **200,000,000** of your brothers and sisters who are strategically placed in the body of Christ as prime examples of the correct and complete Christian's walk? As we move into the uncertain days ahead it would behoove us all to “**observe**” them very carefully.