

January 27, 2008  
The Bridge Bible Fellowship  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Phil. 2:14-16

“From Heavenly-Minded to Earthly-Good” Part Two  
“Divine Measure of Maturity”

What is the one ATTRIBUTE of God that unbelievers hate the most? (Heb. 13:8; James 1:17; Mal. 3:6)

What is the one ATTRIBUTE of God that should bring the greatest comfort to the believer?

**I. Divine Motivation to Maturity - v. 12-13**

**II. Divine \_\_\_\_\_ of Maturity - v. 14-16** [how Paul knows his life will not be vain]

- “do all things without grumbling or disputing”
    - Jn. 5:12; Acts 6:1; 1 Pet. 4:9; Ex. 14:7-12; Dt. 32:5 cf. Dt. 32:4
  
  - “that you may prove yourselves to be”
1. WHAT YOU ARE BEFORE OTHERS:
    - Lk. 1:6; Phil. 3:6
  
  2. WHAT YOU ARE IN YOURSELF:
    - Mt. 10:16; Rom. 16:19
  
  3. WHAT YOU ARE BEFORE GOD:
    - Lev. 1:3, 10; Num. 6:14; 19:2; 28:3; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:19
    - Ps. 15
  
  4. WHAT YOU ARE IN THE WORLD:
    - cf. Dt. 32:5; Mt. 12:39; 17:17; Acts 2:40
    - Acts 13:10; 20:30
- “among whom you appear as lights in the world”
- Mt. 5:13-16
  - 1 Pet. 2:9-12
  - Jn. 8:12; cf. Mt. 5:14, 16; Eph. 5:8; 1 Th. 5:5
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- “holding fast the word of life”
  
  - “in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain or toil in vain.”

How did Paul evaluate the effectiveness of his ministry? (not vain)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. God's MEASURE of maturity has not changed. Evaluate the five areas below giving God praise for areas of strength and praying to Him for growth in the areas where you are weak. Ask the Lord for guidance, and then write down one action step for each area below so you can grow in Christ-likeness. Put these into practice this week!
  - Grumbling & Disputing (attitude of submissiveness)
  - Blameless (what you are before men)
  - Innocent (what you are in yourself)
  - Children of God Above Reproach (what you are before God)
  - Lights in the World Holding Forth the Word of Life (what you are before the world)
2. What are some things that hinder us from being consumed with the Kingdom of God? (Mt. 6:33)  
How do these things keep us from having a Mature Mindset?
3. Read Exodus 14-16. What problem did the children of Israel have with their attitude? How would an understanding of God's immutability have helped them?
4. Memorize Eph. 4:29. How will this verse help us not be like the children of Israel?
5. God doesn't change! His essence, character, truth, standards, desires have not changed. Since this is true we MUST CHANGE! We need to constantly grow in every area of life to conform to the image of Jesus (Rom. 8:29). Spend some time in prayer and ask the Lord to give you wisdom. Then evaluate if you are TRULY GROWING. Apply the truths you have learned from Philippians so you can begin running & toiling in such a way that it is not in vain.