

SPIRITUAL DIGEST

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A HIDDEN LIFE

page 3

THE MEANING OF
WATCHFULNESS

page 4

WHAT IS THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF
CAESAREA PHILLIPPI
IN THE BIBLE?

page 6

BIBLE CHALLENGE

page 9

G O D W I L L M E E T Y O U
W H E R E Y O U A R E I N
O R D E R T O T A K E Y O U
W H E R E H E W A N T S Y O U T O
G O .

~ T O N Y E V A N S

A HIDDEN LIFE

Col 3:3-4 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

What does it mean to say that our life has been hidden with Christ in God? In Colossians 3:3, Paul goes on to say that our spiritual life has been hidden with Christ in God who is in the heavens. As a result, we should no longer care for the things on the earth and the outward glory gained before man. God in the heavens should be the sphere of our living and we should live in God with Christ. In Colossians 3:4, Paul continues that in God, Christ, not our self, our soul, is our life. This life is now hidden, but it will be manifested and we shall be manifested with this life in glory. From these two verses, we extrapolate that a life hidden with Christ in God means to live a life hidden from the world and what is seen outwardly by man, but a secret life before only Christ and full of experiences of Christ - this hidden life will be manifested with Christ in glory in the future.

This hidden life is quite important! Nothing can preserve you as much as a hidden life. If you see that a brother has fallen or failed, you can surely say that he lost his hidden life prior to this point. He lost his hidden life during the previous weeks, months, or even years. Your spiritual life depends very much on your hidden life before God. If you cannot sustain a hidden life, you will be weak before the Lord. Therefore, the only way that we can know that we will not fall is by having an adequate amount of hidden life today. You should realize the importance of the hidden life.

Brother and sisters, let me ask you honestly - is your living only what is seen by men? Other than the part of your living, testimony, Bible reading, and prayer that have been done before men, how much has been done in secret? Have you had any secret prayer, reading, or time with the Lord this past week? May we all endeavor to have such a life hidden with Christ in God in this way.

*CWWN, vol. 11, "The Present Testimony (4): The Third Overcomer Conference," ch. 7: A Shallow Life
Life-study of Colossians, msg. 27: Christ—Our Life*

THE MEANING OF WATCHFULNESS

1 Thes 5:4-5:6

5:4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness that the day should overtake you like a thief;

5:5 For you are all sons of a light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

5:6 So then let us not fall asleep, as the rest do, but let us watch and be sober.

Now we come to the crucial matter of understanding what it means to be watchful and sober. Watchfulness here is related to a battle, a fighting. Some versions use the word vigilant, a word related to warfare. Soldiers in a battle need to be watchful, vigilant. The fact that watchfulness is related to fighting is confirmed by Paul's mention of the breastplate and helmet in verse 8. A breastplate and helmet are not ordinary items of dress. They are, of course, part of the armor used by soldiers in fighting. Paul's concept of being watchful and sober, therefore, is related to fighting, to warfare. In these

verses Paul is talking about some kind of battle .

There are sugar-coated teachings about the Lord's coming and the rapture revealed in chapter four, but these teachings do not prepare believers for fighting. Instead, they cause them to be drugged and in a stupor. It is important for us to see that watchfulness refers to a proper spirit in fighting a battle. If we grasp this thought, we shall have in large measure the proper understanding of what it means to be watchful.

To be watchful is to continue fighting. Soldiers in a battle do not merely look around. That is not to be watchful. They are watchful because they are fighting. When they stop fighting, they are no longer watchful. According to our understanding, to be watchful is simply to look out for something, for example, [151] to watch our step as we are

walking. But this is not the meaning here. In these verses to be watchful is to remember that we are in a battle, that we are fighting and are surrounded by enemies. This is the reason we need a helmet and also a breastplate.

References:

Life Study of Thessalonians

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PHILIPPI IN THE BIBLE?

Caesarea Philippi was a city in the time of Christ located in the foothills of Mount Hermon, about fifteen miles north of the Sea of Galilee. The natural spring near Caesarea Philippi is the largest source of the Jordan River. Caesarea Philippi is mentioned only in the New Testament gospels of Matthew and Mark, both recording the same incident.

One of the villages around Caesarea Philippi was the setting for Jesus' famous statement to Peter, "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:18). This passage contains the very first use of the word church in the New Testament. Leading up to this statement, both Matthew 16:13 and Mark 8:27 recount Jesus asking the disciples, "Who do people say I am?" When they replied with a variety of answers—John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets—Jesus pressed

further with, "Who do you say I am?" Peter spoke up: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). That statement of truth would become the foundation for Jesus' church. And it all started in Caesarea Philippi.

Caesarea Philippi was so named by Herod Philip, whose father, Herod the Great, had built a temple there. Philip took a special interest in the village and enlarged it, attaching his name to that of Caesar. The name Philip gave the town also served to distinguish it from another town called Caesarea (Acts 10:1). While Caesarea was located in Judea on the border of the Mediterranean Sea, Caesarea Philippi was in Galilee within the land allotted to the tribe of Naphtali. The gospels record Jesus going to Caesarea Philippi only once, possibly because it was sparsely populated and situated on the northernmost border of His travels.

We can only speculate why Jesus traveled to Caesarea Philippi when He spent most of His time preaching to large crowds in bigger cities. It was a beautiful location, perfect for getaways, and it may be that Jesus wanted to spend some time with His

disciples in relative peace. Also, Jesus' mission took Him "throughout all Galilee" (Matthew 4:23, ESV) as He taught in "all the towns and villages" in that region (Matthew 9:35). He could not overlook Caesarea Philippi.

Our Lord's visit to Caesarea Philippi is a reminder that Jesus is keenly aware of the poor, the marginalized, and the overlooked (Matthew 11:28). His birth was first announced to a group of humble shepherds (Luke 2:8-12), and one of His most world-changing declarations was made to a group of unlikely disciples in a burg called Caesarea Philippi. Jesus continually demonstrated the truth of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 1:27-29: "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him." Caesarea Philippi was not eternally significant in any way until the Son of God chose it as the place where He declared the beginning of His church.

A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



WATCH! BE READY!

CHORUS

Watch, be ready,
We know not the day He comes,
Are your vessels filled with oil?
Are you faithful serving ones?
Let's go out, to meet Him,
He's the most precious One,
Turn your heart toward Christ, the Bridegroom,
Whom you love.

1

Lord, I open wide to You,
Lord, I'm ready to be filled,
Lord, a virgin pure in heart I want to be,
I'll pay for extra oil willingly.

2

Lord, I give my time to You,
Lord, I'll watch by loving You,
Lord, Your living Word I want more to receive,
Lord, find me washed and cleansed so thoroughly.

3

Lord, a talent I've received,
Lord, through my ability,
Lord, I now begin to trade immediately,
Lord, find me good and faithful serving Thee.

4

Lord, You've met my every need,
Lord, I'll serve You as a priest,
Lord, I'll minister the Life that I've received,
Lord, find me giving food so timely.

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK ONE (9/19-9/24)

MONDAY: COLOSSIANS 3

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/51_Colossians_3.htm#Col3

TUESDAY: COLOSSIANS 4

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/51_Colossians_4.htm#Col4

WEDNESDAY: 1 THESSALONIANS 1

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/52_1Thessalonians_1.htm

THURSDAY: 1 THESSALONIANS 2

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/52_1Thessalonians_2.htm#FTh2

FRIDAY: 1 THESSALONIANS 3

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/52_1Thessalonians_3.htm#FTh3

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK ONE (9/26-10/1)

MONDAY: 1 THESSALONIANS 4

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/52_1Thessalonians_4.htm#FTh4

TUESDAY: 1 THESSALONIANS 5

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/52_1Thessalonians_5.htm#FTh5

WEDNESDAY: 2 THESSALONIANS 1

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/53_2Thessalonians_1.htm

THURSDAY: 2 THESSALONIANS 2

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/53_2Thessalonians_2.htm#STh2

FRIDAY: 2 THESSALONIANS 3

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/53_2Thessalonians_3.htm#STh3