



WOW: Word Of the Week

Magnify

January 5, 2022

Welcome to WOW 2022! Each week, a weekly WOW, a Word Of the Week—near the middle of the week, but not always on Wednesday. Welcome!

Phil. 1:20-21, accordingly, the thing I most seek, my hope, is that in nothing I will be ashamed, but with boldness always, even now, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death. For with this goal, to live is Christ, and to die gain.

We know v. 21, but not v. 20. They are connected. Paul's "one thing" in this passage is to magnify Christ, to glorify Christ, totally yielded to him. The matter he has put at the top of his list, the thing he most watches for—to magnify Christ. Nothing causes us more shame more quickly than realizing that we have failed to declare his magnificence. We have failed to be bold; we have taken our eyes off the goal.

We should be concerned with the how and why? The challenge we face in yielding totally to Christ is that we must surrender our own direction, purpose, goals. We must go only in the direction of Christ. We seek never to interfere with his purpose in our lives, and when we would be so tempted, we yield (as traffic is instructed to yield at an intersection).

Thus, each morning, if we are genuinely committed as Paul to magnifying Christ, we awaken to ask about His place in our day. I recently read about a person who at the end of the day labelled each day as either an "X" or an "O." An "X" meant, I failed to follow Christ. An "O" meant, I followed fairly well. We determine the X or O of each day as we begin the day.

No other consideration matters—I will be open continually this day to Him, following Him, advancing His cause.

Then Paul makes a connection we often fail to make. We see v. 21 as a good goal but fail to see that Paul in the same passage tells us how it happens. Living is Christ and dying is gain because (for!) we are committed to magnifying Christ in our physical bodies / existence, every action, every word. We are following Christ as Lord; therefore, we will do exactly what He wants.

Paul touched the same point in 1:10 when he prayed for the Philippians that they would be able to discern or choose what is best. There it is! Not what is good, or even what is better. This day, this week, I see what is best, in order that whatever happens to me, Christ will be magnified.