

Psalm
90:12

Please read with me
from:
2 Corinthians 3:2-3

The Power of Influence

- **What is Influence?**
 - “that moral or spiritual force, power, or capacity by which we have an effect upon a person, condition, or development.”
 - Salt – Matthew 5:13
 - Light – Matthew 5:14-16
 - Leaven – Matthew 13:33

“You are an epistle of Christ”
Your Influence Matters!



Always Written on Materials Which have Undergone a Change

- **The “Change” is Conversion**
 - Matthew 18:3, “become as little children”
 - Acts 3:19, “Repent and be converted”
 - Psalms 19:7, “converting the soul”
 - Romans 1:16, “power of God”

Always Written on Materials Which have Undergone a Change

- **Threefold Change:**
 - Of Heart – Acts 15:8-9
 - Of Life – Matthew 12:41
 - Of State – Romans 6:3
- **Results in New Life –**
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - Galatians 6:15; 3:27

Read, With the Reader Being Influenced

- **Just as people “read” letters, they will “read” us**
 - **1 Peter 3:1, “even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives”**
 - **People “read” us like an open book. How do you read?**

Written for the Good of Others

- **2 Corinthians 8:9, “for your sakes He became poor”**
- **Matthew 20:28, “Son of man ... came to serve”**
- **1 Corinthians 10:24, “seek other’s well-being”**
- **Romans 15:1, “not please selves”**

Convey The Expression of Their Author

- **“The mind of Christ”
Philippians 2:5**
- **“Christ living in us” Galatians
2:20**
- **Magnify Christ – Philippians
1:20**
- **Lives transformed into image
of Christ – 2 Corinthians 3:18**

Convey The Expression of Their Author

- **To have Seen Christ was to
have Seen the Father – John
14:9**
- **To See a True Christian, is to
See Christ!**
- **Can others see Christ in me; my
speech, my dress, what I do, my
attitude, and where I go?**

What Impression of Christ do others get by reading the epistle of Our Life?

Bear the Signature of Their Author

- **Acts 11:26, “disciples ... called
Christians”**
- **Acts 4:11-12, “no other name ...
by which we must be saved”**
- **James 2:7, “noble name by
which you are called”**
- **We must so live as to never
bring shame and reproach on
this name**

Written to be Easily Read

- Acts 4:13, “they perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.”
- Romans 12:2, “do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed”

Some Epistles Do Not Contain Much

- What does Our Epistle of Christ Contain?
- Acts 10:38, “who went about doing good”
- Fullness –
- Acts 9:36, “full of good works”
- Romans 15:14, “full of goodness”

May Become Spotted or Stained

- The Spot/Stain will be the first thing seen.
- Revelation 1:5, “loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”
- James 1:27, “keep oneself unspotted from the world.”

To be unconcerned about maintaining our spiritual purity is to show a fundamental lack of appreciation for what Christ and His blood has done for us!

Hymn # 460 (The World's Bible)

2. “We are the only Bible, The careless world will read; We are the sinners gospel, We are the scoffer's creed; We are the Lord's last message, Given in deed and word; What if the type is crooked? What if the print is blurred?”
3. “What if our hands are busy, With other things than His? What if our feet are walking, Where sin's allurements is? What if our tongues are speaking, Of things His life would spurn? How can we hope to help Him, And welcome His return?”