

To Know Christ

Philippians 3:8-12 Yet indeed I also **count all things loss** for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and **be found in Him, not having my own righteousness**, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the **righteousness which is from God by faith**; ¹⁰ **that I may know Him** and the **power of His resurrection**, and the **fellowship of His sufferings**, being **conformed to His death**, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

What did Paul Count as loss?

1. Circumcision (adherence to the law)
2. Hebrew of Hebrews - his heritage
3. A Pharisee (teacher - position) also education
4. Zeal - Persecuting the Christians - Actions he believed to Glorify God
5. Righteousness by upholding the law.

Why are these things a loss? Education, passion are good things. But they are not substitutes for knowing Christ. And **knowing Christ surpasses these things**.

But knowing Christ is not where this ends. That is not enough for Paul (and should not be for us either).

Be Found in Him

- The world, as Romans 5:12–21 tells us, is divided into two humanities, Adam or Jesus. There is the old age (in Adam) and the new creation (in Christ).
- We can either be found in Adam or we can be found in Christ. There is no middle ground. Being in Adam is to do things in your own strength. To be subject to the flesh, and a slave to sin. Being in Christ is His strength in us, being subject to the Spirit, being a slave to righteousness.
 - Paul **chooses** to be found in Christ.
- When we choose Christ, we are found in Christ.

- **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.
- To be Found in Christ is to be dead to sin and Alive to God.
 - **Romans 6:11** “Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- But just because we are in Christ, that does not automatically cause us to act that way, or even believe that way. That’s what Paul is talking about here. The more Paul pursues Christ, the more he is found in Christ.
 - Paul’s identity is in Christ
 - **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Not his own righteousness, but the righteousness from God

- **2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- **Romans 9:30-32** What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did* not *seek it* by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.
- Paul lived his entire life up until Damascus earning salvation through works. Now he knows it only comes by faith. He is found in Him because Paul understands this principle.
- There is real freedom in understanding that we live by the righteousness of Jesus and not our own righteousness.

That I May Know Him

- Paul's absolute heart cry was to know Christ. How do we get to know Christ?
 - His word, spend time with Him, talk about Him with others, read about Him. Church. Bible Studies. Spiritual Disciplines.
- The power of the life of Christ in you can only be as effective to the degree that you know Christ.
- Pursuing Christ on your own through Spiritual disciplines is essential. But pursuing Christ with others is also essential. This brings accountability, enjoyment with shared interests, safety in interpretation, and it's written into the design of people as God created us as social beings.

To know the Power of His Resurrection

- Paul is talking about the actual power that raised Christ from the dead.
- Paul wants to experience the Holy Spirit raising Him to new life.
- Paul is referring to the power that the resurrection of Jesus has in the life of a believer. What is that power?
 - That power is justifying power. Creating righteousness in us. Sets us at peace with God.
 - That power is evidencing power. Manifesting through gifts and fruit.
 - That power is life-giving power. Eternal life. Being made alive with Christ. Conquering death, the grave, setting us free from hell.
 - That power is healing power.
 - That power places us in God's family. we are made new, become sons and daughters.
- Most of the ways that we come to know the resurrection power of Christ is through experiential methods. Experience is good when we first learn of it in Scripture, and then experience. Not good the other way around.
- To not know the resurrection power of Jesus is to have no power.
 - **2 Timothy 3:5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

- That verse comes from a warning of vile people that threaten the church.

What is the fellowship of His sufferings?

- Is Paul talking about his physical suffering? Paul was stoned, beaten, shipwrecked, left for dead, imprisoned, hungry, etc... - Is this what he wanted to know?
- It is actually defined by the second part of the statement - "being conformed to His death." Whereas the resurrection brought us a new life, we still have the same body and mind and thoughts and emotions that must be renewed - or conformed to His death. Our old spirit died. Now we must daily put our flesh to death. But we have the power of the resurrection to give us the power. That is why Paul said it in this order. It was not an accident.
- **Matthew 16:24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
- **John 12:24** Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.
 - Death produces life.
- **Joh 12:25** He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
 - What does it mean to hate your life?

The fellowship of His suffering is putting to death all things in us that hang on to life without Jesus:

How do we put those things to death?

- **Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- **Colossians 3:1-3** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

- What do both of these verses have in common - intentionality
- We must learn to trust God. We need to put our own desires and interests to death and ask God for His desires.
- **Psalm 37:4** Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- What exactly does this verse mean? Either is correct.
- Die to flesh patterns- complaining, habitual sins, critical spirit, etc... We can choose to be the person God created us to be. Not because we can will it, but because of the power of the resurrection.

The way Paul achieved this

Philippians 3:12-14 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Being a Christian is not passive
- Resting in God is not passive
- Being found in Christ is not passive

Being a true follower of Christ is not easy. It takes intentionality. We are dying to ourselves and living to Christ.