

## That I May Know Him; Philippians 3:8-11

### I. Worth

- A. We place value on a lot of different things
  - 1. A piece of paper with green ink
  - 2. An ore that comes out of the ground
  - 3. Time and labor
  - 4. And even knowledge — Colleges charge a lot of money for their courses
- B. Philippians 3:8 (ESV); Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
- C. Paul states that the quality or value of the knowledge of Jesus is better (surpasses) than anything, everything else
- D. Paul lost everything he had
  - 1. He was a Pharisee
  - 2. He was advancing faster than those around him
  - 3. He was educated by a highly sought after teacher (Gamaliel)
  - 4. There is convincing evidence that he had been married
    - a) Zealous for the traditions of his fathers
    - b) He “cast his vote” suggesting he was a member of the Sanhedrin
    - c) 1 Corinthians 7:8 (ESV); To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single, as I am.
  - 5. Knowing Jesus was more important than who he thought God was
  - 6. Knowing Jesus was more important than any familial relationships
  - 7. Knowing Jesus was more important than his career
  - 8. Knowing Jesus was more important than his reputation
- E. What worth, what value do we place on knowing Jesus?

### II. Know Him

- A. Philippians 3:8–11 (ESV); <sup>8</sup> Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- B. Know — a deep experiential intimate understanding
  - 1. “It’s not what you know, but who you know”
  - 2. This is also true of Christianity
  - 3. There are plenty of people who know about God — scholars, theologians, professors, etc.
  - 4. But what matters is that you know Him personally, like your best friend
- C. God gave us a way to have a relationship with Him (and His Son)
  - 1. We can read about Jesus all day long, every day of our lives
  - 2. But if we read for knowledge — we miss the relationship
  - 3. We ask God to direct our lives — we ask God to help us make correct decisions — we ask God to intervene — and He does!
  - 4. How does that make us feel? — Thankful, blessed, mad, hurt, confused?
  - 5. I can logically read the Scriptures and correctly understand what God is telling me
  - 6. But emotions are what drive relationships, not knowledge
  - 7. Since God uses marriage as an example of the relationship of Christ and the church, so will we.
  - 8. It was not knowledge of your husband or wife that brought you to marriage

9. At some point in time, your knowledge brought you to a point where you decided to invest with your emotions
  10. Your emotions brought you to a point where you invested with action — love.
- D. “The Power of His resurrection”
1. Jesus’ love for us drove Him to the cross
  2. How do we feel when we read about the resurrection?
  3. Knowing the resurrection happened, that the accounts written down for us in the Gospels are true, should be the catalyst for an emotional response
  4. Our emotions (sorrow at His death, joy in our salvation, excitement about heaven) should lead us to action — love
- E. Love — no matter what
- III. Share in Suffering
- A. The Bible gives us a correlation between suffering and Christian living
1. 1 Peter 4:12–13 (ESV); <sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
  2. 2 Timothy 3:10–12 (ESV); <sup>10</sup> You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup> my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup> Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,
  3. 2 Corinthians 1:5–7 (ESV); <sup>5</sup> For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. <sup>6</sup> If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. <sup>7</sup> Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.
- B. As Christians, we should expect persecution and sufferings
1. We “should not be surprised” at the current state of our country
  2. We “should not be surprised” at the killings in other countries
    - a) 345 Christians are killed for faith-related reasons monthly
    - b) 105 Churches and Christian buildings are burned or attacked monthly
    - c) 219 Christians are detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned monthly
    - d) Open Doors puts out a publication that details the 50 worst countries for Christians — Not surprisingly North Korea is number 1
- C. We should welcome and rejoice in our suffering for Jesus, because in our suffering we become more like Him
- IV. Like Him
- A. This is our goal — to be like Jesus
- B. 1 Peter 2:20–23 (ESV); <sup>20</sup> For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup> He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. <sup>23</sup> When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.
- C. As we suffer, we commit ourselves to the Father who judges justly — we do not sin, deceive, revile, or threaten
- D. Our goal in all things is to respond as the Savior would
- E. This is why we continually read about Him in our Scriptures
- F. This is why we develop a relationship with him based on truth and knowledge
- V. Attain the Resurrection

- A. We come to know Him and we love Him
- B. We suffer because He suffered
- C. We strive to be more like Him