

Family Prayer Center
615 Nassau Street
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That I May Know Him – November Letter 2024

Dear Friend,

The apostle Paul is often considered one of the deepest and most doctrinally enriched apostles of the New Testament. His writings span everything from teaching born-again Jews how to transition their faith from the law of Moses to a single individual, Christ Jesus, to teaching gentile believers how to live holy without any previous knowledge of the law. He taught Jews and gentiles both on how to present their bodies a living sacrifice for holy living in the book of Romans. He taught the gentiles how to forsake fornication, adultery, and idol worship in books like Corinthians, Galatians, and Ephesians. He taught on the gifts of the Spirit, order in the Church, and how to walk in the highest order of love throughout his books. He was able to see prophetically into the end of this age and taught on the apostasy of the Church, the coming antichrist, and the last judgment in books to the Thessalonians and to Timothy.

To say that Paul was a prolific writer on all matters of instruction in righteousness, Christian living, and end-time events is an understatement.

He was also a man of power. Paul raised the dead, cast out devils, and had a long list of miracles attributed to him everywhere he went. According to Acts chapter 19, His ministry was so strong in Asia minor that pieces of cloth that touched his body were sent throughout the entire region for the purpose of healing. This had the same effect that Peter's shadow had in Acts chapter 5. Great miracles and demonic deliverances took place throughout all of Asia minor, even without Paul physically being in the location of the miracle, just because a cloth had previously been taken from his body. Now that sounds like power to me, to say the least!

Paul would often note in his epistles to the churches that he recognized himself as an apostle (special messenger) for the purpose of edifying the Body of Christ. Paul understood his call and his purpose of authority. He was neither arrogant nor shy in using this authority to glorify Christ.

Paul spent much of his 30 plus years of ministry behind bars in prison for the gospel's sake. He is arguably the most hated and continually persecuted man of the New Testament besides Jesus. The list could go on and on of his accomplishments, doctoral writings, and persecutions, but there is something far greater to recognize here.

What was the core of Paul's existence in Christ? Was it his crowning accomplishments of doctrinal truth? Was it his persecutions or even an endless string of miracles throughout the world?

HOW DID PAUL WANT TO BE KNOWN?

WHAT WAS AT HIS CORE? WHAT WAS HIS EPITAPHIAL DESIRE?

WHAT WAS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND EVERYTHING THAT PAUL DID?

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

There was something that Paul defined as the “high calling” in his life. He counted it as the prize beyond everything else to be pressed towards with undaunted purpose. There was no price too high for this, no knowledge equaling it, and no persecution that could extinguish it.

In Philippians chapter 3, Paul says these words:

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

Paul identifies that everything that he had ever known or accomplished previous to Christ would never be equal to the KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. In other words, coming to the saving knowledge of God’s grace in Christ, God’s true plan of redemption.

The word “knowledge” here in verse 8 is the word “gnōsis”

Thayer’s Definition:

- 1) knowledge signifies in general intelligence, understanding
- 1a) the general knowledge of Christian religion

Here, Paul is speaking of how the general knowledge of Christ had changed his life forever and by way of comparison made all other accomplishments and knowledge only waste.

BUT WAIT, THERE IS SOMETHING GREATER THAN THIS!

SOMETHING MUCH MORE DEAR TO PAUL! SOMETHING THAT IS HIS PRIZE!
SOMETHING THAT IS HIS CORE!

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

HERE WE HAVE IT!

In the very next verse, Paul identifies his prize: “That I may know him.”

This word in the Greek for “know” Him (Christ) is the word “ginōskō.” Without going into too much detail, this word in the same Greek lexicon tells us that this is to be understood in the same way that a man would intimately know his wife. It was the closest word for intimate knowledge that Paul could use to define his relationship with Christ.

In just two verses, Paul goes from trading his entire life for the “general knowledge” of Christ to sharing with us what had become the greatest prize and desire of his life; and that was to know Him intimately. So much so, that he would be conformed to His exact image.

Paul ratchets down the beauty of a general knowledge to an intimate knowledge that could only be compared with the intimacy of husband and wife. The secrecy of moments of beauty shared in his oneness with Christ was Paul’s continual anticipation!

This desire pressed Paul to be conformed to Christ’s image in the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His sufferings, and the conformity of His death.

Paul came to the place where he had a continual anticipation of this conforming process taking place. He was also sure that Christ shared this anticipation with him. Paul longed for Jesus and Jesus longed for Paul like in a marriage relationship.

This is what we must understand: Our Heavenly Father desires our fellowship in intimacy more than anything else. This is what Jesus came for. He came to restore sons and daughters back to the Father for the purpose of fellowship. No general knowledge of God’s grace is complete until the intimate knowledge of knowing Him is practiced on a continual basis. KNOWLEDGE IS NOT ENOUGH!

The Father anticipates the possibility each day that each of His children would stop at some point in their day to fellowship with Him and get to know Him as their spiritual Father.

Lamentations 3:22 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

Lamentations 3:23 *They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.*

Each day, there is a fresh batch of His compassions, or you might say intimacies, waiting to greet you.

To humanize God for just a moment, think of it this way. Your Heavenly Father stays up all night just waiting for you to wake up so He can pour out His intimate fellowship on you. GOD TRULY ANTICIPATES YOU COMING!

When I was in construction earlier in life, the most exciting part of my day was coming home to my two beautiful daughters and wife. I was so worn out from 10 to 12 hours of work that I could hardly drag myself into the house at times. But my whole world would change instantly when I drove into the yard to find my girls waiting in anticipation for me. If I did happen to get in the door before they noticed, I can remember my wife saying, “Girls, your daddy is home!” And with that came two yelling princesses who had been waiting for daddy’s arrival. Their anticipation made my life complete.

Your Heavenly Father is no different! The Kingdom of God is family. He awaits your arrival every day in times of fellowship.

Paul came to the place where looking at Jesus face-to-face and fellowshiping with Him trumped all past and future accomplishments. It was this single passion that led the way for all accomplishments in Paul's life. And yet, Paul never considered himself as having arrived fully, but was always pressing towards the mark.

Philippians 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

This is an encouragement for all of us who often feel that we have fallen short in time or effort in obtaining this mark of fellowship. But for everyone who has a sincere desire to get to know Him in this place of fellowship, there is a promise of His grace and compassion in helping us get past all the obstacles that usually hold us back from this accomplishment.

Philippians 3:15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

The word "perfect" here is the word for spiritually mature. God is telling us that the spiritually mature will come to know, or it will be revealed to them, whatever is robbing them in coming to this place. And we know that if it is revealed, there will also be mountains of grace provided to overcome.

"THAT I MAY KNOW HIM" IS THE CRY OF HEAVEN TODAY!

We are just a couple of weeks away from celebrating Thanksgiving! There is so much to be thankful for during this holiday season, beginning first with our access through Christ to truly get to know Jesus and our Father. God has also recently brought forth an incredible miracle in our nation. So many things are happening in the spirit realm to prepare us for the world's greatest Revival and Harvest.

Candy and I are truly thankful for you as family. Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and support.

I WILL SEE YOU IN THE REVIVAL!

Blessings,
Pastor Bronc