

17. THAT I MAY KNOW HIM: Philippians 3:10-11 by Brett Baggett on Sunday, September 20th, 2020

Q. What is your highest goal in life and in death? External? Internal? The highest **External** goal for a Christian is “to glorify God.” **Internal**, “to enjoy Him forever.”

I. KNOWING JESUS MORE IS THE HIGHEST INTERNAL GOAL OF A SAINT (v. 10a)

PHILIPPIANS 3:10a “that I may know him”

- **Psalm 27:4** “One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.”
- Jesus is the bread that always fills and you never tire of eating; He is the water that always satisfies and you always want more.
- **You must go further up and further in!** Why must I read the Scriptures and pray, fast and read books? Why must I be in community and listen to preaching? Why must I confess my sin and put it to death? Why must I take the Lord’s Supper in faith?
- **So that I may know Him more!** There is more joy; more happiness; more satisfaction; more delight; more assurance—at His right hand are pleasures forevermore! **Go get Him!**
- **SIBBES:** “Joseph in the dungeon, Israel in Egypt, Daniel among the lions, the three children in the fire, Paul in prison, feared not danger ; for what cared they so long as they knew God was with them; & therefore they rejoiced.
- **If we have Christ we have all, if we want Christ we want all.”**

So I ask you again: Q. What is your highest goal in life and in death?

II. KNOWING JESUS MORE IMPARTS RESURRECTION POWER TO SAINTS (v. 10b)

Philippians 3:10b “and the power of his resurrection”

Q. What is it to “know the power of Jesus’ resurrection”? A. I think Paul means at least THREE things:

I) Being Saved is experiencing Jesus’ resurrection power!

- **1 Peter 1:3** “[God] has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

II) Being Sanctified is experiencing Jesus’ resurrection power!

- **Romans 8:11** “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

III) Being Sustained in the midst of suffering is experiencing Jesus’ resurrection power!

- *Oh to know him and the power of His resurrection!*

Q. Do you know the resurrection power of Jesus Christ? If you are in Christ, you absolutely do. You just may have not realized it.

Q. Now, I hope and pray that you are thinking “OK, how can I know Jesus more and more and more? How can I experience His resurrection power in my life more and more?” If that’s not what you are asking, please starting asking that in your mind. I think that’s where Paul turns next.

III. YOU WILL KNOW JESUS AND HIS POWER MORE AS YOU SHARE HIS SUFFERINGS, BECOMING LIKE HIM IN HIS DEATH (v. 10c)

Philippians 3:10c “and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death”

- Q. In what ways do Christians become like Christ in His death? A. Not in salvation, but in suffering.
- Q. Should Christians expect to suffer for Christ’s sake or is that reserved just for some? A. All Christians should expect suffering for Christ.
- **2 Timothy 3:12** “12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”
- **SIBBES:** “Let no Christian therefore promise himself immunity of crosses.” Q. Have promised yourself a lie?
- **1) When you suffer for Jesus’ sake, it is not you they are persecuting so much as Christ in you!**
 - **John 15:20** “A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”
 - **This is what Paul calls** “Filling up the afflictions of Christ” in **Colossians 1:24.**
 - Persecuted Christians are the collateral damage of the sinners war against their Creator; Suffering saints are caught in the crossfire because they hold the banner of their King!
- **2) When you suffer for Jesus’ sake, He feels it!**
 - **Acts 9:4 (Luke writes):** “And falling to the ground, [Paul] heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”
 - Does not the head suffer when the foot is struck? Does not the head hurt when the hand is cut? Does not the mind feel pain when the ears are boxed?
 - **If you are in Christ, He FEELS every blow both physically & emotionally that you endure on account of your faithfulness to Him.**
- *Oh how honorable it is to share in the sufferings of Christ! How sympathetic a High Priest you have in Christ Jesus your Lord!*
- **I think many Christians do not seriously know the power of Jesus’ resurrection** because they would hardly ever do something that would lead to sharing His sufferings. Therefore they do not need Jesus’ strength to get them through. **Oh but Paul did!**
- **Fellow Soldiers, wherever they meet, find camaraderie.** Especially those who served in the same war. How much more for those who have been wounded. Why? Because they share sufferings.
- Q. How about you?
- **THEREFORE:** If you want to know Jesus Christ more, you must “share His sufferings.” How? By obeying Him in word and deed—speaking the truth in love and walking in holiness. If you speak the truth and walk in holiness, you will suffer for His name’s sake. When you suffer, you will experience the power of His resurrection as He sustains you through it all!

IV. YOU WILL KNOW JESUS FULLY, WHEN HE VINDICATES ALL YOUR SUFFERINGS AND RASIES YOU FROM THE DEAD (v. 11)

Philippians 3:11 “that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

- **Outside out of Christ, all of your labor is in vain. It will vanish! In Christ, none of your labor for His glory is in vain!**
- **1 Cor. 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”
- **C.S. LEWIS:** “They say of some temporal suffering, "No future bliss can make up for it," not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory.”
- **Q.** Do you try and defend yourself or vindicate yourself before men? Maybe it would help to remember that Christ will vindicate you. Take a breath.

V. YOU MUST PERSEVERE IN THE FAITH— YOU WILL PERSEVERE ONLY BY FIXING YOUR EYES ON JESUS (v. 11)

Philippians 3:11 “that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”

- **If you would persevere in the faith, you must exercise holy violence!**
- **Matthew 11:12** “From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.”
- **If you would persevere in the faith, you must look to Jesus Christ alone for strength and stamina!**
- **Hebrews 12:1-2** “1...let us...lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”
- **GOODWIN:** “If I were to go to heaven, & find that Christ was not there, I would leave immediately; for heaven without Christ would be hell to me.”