

WHAT IS THE GREAT GOAL OF YOUR LIFE?

(Philippians 3:10-11)

Series: "Philippians: The Joyful Letter" (Part 18)

...One has written, "The unexamined life is not worth living." By this he meant that you ought to give deep thought to the big questions of life, and not merely live for the essentials. In light of this, each of us needs to ask the serious questions about life's purpose and goal. Ask yourself, "Why God did you make me?" "What is my unique purpose in life?" "What should be the great goal of my existence?"

...Jim Boice wrote, "There are many things that distinguish Christianity from other world religions, but the most significant distinction is this: We believe that Jesus rose from the dead after having been crucified and that He lives today to be known by those who trust Him. Thus to know Him personally, intimately, and experientially is the first and the great goal of the believer's life."

...Paul tells us that his great goal in life was to know Jesus more and more. This was his yearning, his longing. Is this true of you? Can you to sing the chorus, "Oh I want to know Him more..."

THREE WAYS THAT WE, LIKE PAUL, OUGHT TO YEARN TO KNOW OUR LORD JESUS.

I. It Is A Personal Knowledge. "He walks with me and talks with me..."

- A. This means much more than knowing about Christ. Paul knew much about Him from the Scriptures and from personally meeting him. (Acts 9) This often called "Head-knowledge."
...Paul wrote about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection...this is not what he meant.
- B. The word Paul used here for know is a word that tells of a personal, intimate, relational experience. Paul did not say he yearned to know more about Jesus, no, he desired to know Jesus. There is a huge difference between the two. Many know about Him, but...
 1. Christianity is Christ, and salvation is to know Him in a close up personal way.
 2. Do you have the desire to know Jesus intimately? To awake with Him in the morning and to live each day with Him in His presence?
 3. Psalm 63:1-2 "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for You.."

II. It Is A Powerful Knowledge. "He is working within me to make me like Him"

...Salvation is not the end, but just the beginning. Knowing the resurrected Savior is life changing.

- A. Paul's desire went beyond knowing Jesus; he longed to know His power.
...He yearned to know the resurrection power of Jesus in his daily life. What does this mean?
 1. He knew that a life lived with Jesus meant a life of holiness.
 2. Yet left to himself such a life was impossible. He told us of this in Romans 7:19,22-24.
..."For what I do is not the good I want to do...O wretched man that I am..."
- B. Paul was sensitive to power, as his world was a world of power with Rome thinking they were the great power. The Roman legions were very mighty, but there were greater powers in life than Rome. Sin is a greater power than Rome, as it keeps it's strangle grip upon the hearts and lives of people. The strongest power in the world is the resurrection power of Jesus. Only this power can overcome sin and death. We sing, "He breaks the power of cancelled sin..."
...The power of Jesus Christ is a great reality. Far greater than sin or any other power...
...Ephesians 1:15-23 reveals for us what the Jesus' resurrection power can do in your life.

III. It Is A Painful Knowledge. "To Know The Fellowship Of Sharing In His Suffering"

- A. This does not mean that Paul (We) are to suffer as Jesus did at the Cross for sin. No!
...This was the work of Jesus. He alone suffered innocently for our sin, taking our place.

- B. Paul sought to stand with Christ in such an indivisible union that when the abuses and persecution that Jesus suffered also fell upon him, as he knew they would, he could receive them as Jesus did. (Remember Stephen, Acts 7, who prayed for his killers while dying.)
- C. Suffering is to be the Christian's expectation. (1 Peter 4:12-13) "Don't be surprised..."
 - 1. 2 Timothy 3:12 "Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." If you seek to live for Jesus, suffering will come. "Thy will be done..."
 - 2. Suffering will draw you closer to Jesus while allowing His life to be clearly seen in you.
- D. Furthermore, living for Jesus today (death to self) is likened to a spiritual resurrection. (v.11) ...This is to live for Jesus so much that as you move among the sons of men you will appear as a resurrected person among those who are spiritually dead. This is God's desire for you.

SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

- 1. Take some time today and consider, really consider what is the purpose of your existence. If you know Christ as Savior and Lord, are you drawing close to Him daily and walking with Him throughout the day? The cry of your heart should be to know Him. He is the greatest person to have ever lived and He made you to enjoy Him.
- 2. If you have known Jesus as Savior for long, your life should be more like His as His resurrection power is active in you changing you into His image. Are you growing in your holiness? You can't do this on your own, but His power in you breaks the power of sin within.
- 3. Suffering for our identification with Jesus ought to be the expected norm for all believers. Jesus told us that would be so. When you suffer for Him, rejoice and count it all joy to suffer for Him.
- 4. Today Jesus is calling all to repent of sin and by faith receive Him as Savior and Lord. Is God calling you today? Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Jesus is our only hope. Today, don't delay, cry out to Him in prayer and he will save you from your sin.