

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM



Delighted

...That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3

Years after Paul met his Master on the Damascus Road he was focused on one thing:

Knowing Jesus.

.... in the power of his resurrection.

.... in the fellowship of his suffering.

.... becoming like him in his death.

Knowing Jesus was the focus of Paul's life.

Too often we assume that we know Jesus, and hurry on with our "Christian ministries".

Big mistake.

It's far better to follow Paul's example, and focus on truly knowing Jesus.

In the power of his resurrection.

To know him as the one who alone can raise us from our spiritual dullness, our slothful thinking, our half-baked faith.

Lord Jesus, wake us up!

Show us how far we still need to go to know you in the power of your resurrection!

In the fellowship of his suffering.



I am With You

“If the world hates you, know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15)

The time has come for us to taste the world’s hatred, as so many are tasting that hatred at this moment.

And we need to make sure that they are persecuting us as followers of Jesus, not as self-righteous Christian bigots.

“I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division; for henceforth in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against her mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” (Luke 12)

Becoming like him in his death.



Jesus’ death began the moment he went down into the waters of his baptism.

Jesus rose from the water dead to himself and alive only to his Father.

Only when we are “like him in his death”, crucified with Christ, are we of any use to the kingdom of God.

I am crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2)

Once we are crucified with Christ we rise with him moment by moment in the power of his resurrection.
Dead to ourselves, and alive only to God, we are free from anxiety about who we are.
We can get down and wash feet---serve God in the lowly places where he is.
Trusting our Lord Jesus to flood our lowly serving with resurrection power.



Affection for the Poor, My Treasure

Bottom line:

- Do not focus on your “ministry”.
- Do not worry about your “spiritual state”.
- Do not get caught up in “signs and wonders”.

Focus on one thing:

Knowing Jesus



Gently Broken

...That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

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Featured Art: Ramone Romero <http://ramone-romero.blogspot.com/>

Prayer: Oh that we may know you Lord...in every way you call us to know you. Because without knowing you, without continually looking into your tender eyes, without allowing ourselves to be wrapped into your loving embrace, without laying ourselves before you... we are stumbling on our own. Help us to know you in the fellowship of your suffering, united with you as we choose to love you and serve you even if it means many will hate us and scorn us. Help us to become like you in your death, willing to give up all for you so that you may fully live in us. Help us to know you in the power of your resurrection...yes, rising with you moment by moment as we serve, as we live, as we think and as we breathe. Amen. Maranatha Mirror

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