

Pure Joy: The Surpassing Greatness of Knowing Christ (Phil3:1-11)

1. The Great Exchange (vs.7-8)

A. What is the _____ of the gospel?

1. The gospel is a command to be obeyed. **Jn3:36; Mark1:14-15* (also Acts17:30)

**Repent of your sins and believe/trust Christ and His work; for forgiveness and eternal life*

2. Repentance is a change of mind that results in us abandoning ourself/sins and embracing Christ with our whole self; (*heart, mind, soul, strength*) **Mark8:34; disassociate, die, follow*

B. What happens inside of us at salvation? (when we are born-again)

1. The great exchange – *Mark8:35-37* – *what will a man give in exchange for his soul?* _____

2. *Example: Matt.13:44-46*

*Change of mind: We see all that we have and all that we are is loss/liability in view of Christ

*Faith/Trust: we abandon our life and pursuit of world and w/ joy embrace Christ w/ our life

3. *Phil3:7-8* – This is what happened inside Paul when he met Jesus on the Damascus road!!!

*Vs.7: All he had worked for his whole life, all he had seen as gain became loss, a deficit

*Vs.8: He goes on, ALL things are loss and dung compared to knowing Christ!

2. The Surpassing Greatness of Knowing Christ (vs.8-11)

A. The surpassing _____/greatness (vs.8)

1. Gk. something that is truly priceless; incalculable worth and value

2. Paul came face to face with “The Pearl of Great Price”; the Treasure of Heaven!

B. Knowing Christ Jesus _____ Lord (vs.8)

1. What exactly is priceless? Is it knowing about Christ or actually knowing Him personally?

2. Knowing, Gk. gnosis is knowing one personally, by experience; the OT translation of this word is yada’ - a union and bond of love, like husband knew his wife

3. Salvation is coming to know Christ experientially and having a forever personal love relationship w/ Him! *John10:14; 17:3; 1Jn5:20; 2Tim1:12; 2Cor4:6,7*

**Notice Phil3:8, Christ MY Lord; and Ps23:1 (MY shepherd) – personal, intimate*

4. How deep is this relationship? *Vs.9*, I am in Him; Paul uses 164x in letters! *John15:4-6*

5. So do you actually *know* Him, God, the King and Creator of all?!!! ****Matt7:21-23!!!*

C. That I may _____ Christ: What does this mean? (Vs.9-11)

1. In being in Christ, I have gained the righteousness of God, to my account

2. I have gained the personal, intimate love relationship with Jesus my Lord/Master/King

3. I know (experientially) the power of His resurrection/ ultimate power; *Eph1:18-21*

*This is His power to save us, AND continually be our resource in this life

4. I know (experientially/personally) the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings

*a partnership/deep communion w/ Christ when I suffer

*THE DEEPEST, most intimate times of fellowship/communion w/ Christ is in the times of deepest suffering, affliction and difficulty!!! *Heb2:17,18; 4:14-16*

**Ex.* John Paton being hunted by cannibals

5. I will personally know being resurrected from the dead, being in His very presence!