

Lesson Notes: Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV based)

READ: Philippians 3:10-11, with vv.7-9 for context

v.10

What kind of "fellowship" is there with God when we "share in [Christ's] sufferings"?

- - we have this experience in common with Christ;
- - we gain this perspective, thereby becoming more like-minded with Christ;
- - we reap similar blessings that Christ did;
- - we experience life, even the bad things, in the same way Christ did;
- - we experience 2-way relations with God especially when we are going through sufferings for our faith;
- - we are suffering for the benefit of others, like Christ did.

What does it mean that Paul wants to "know Christ"?

- - to enter into a personal relationship with Christ, which is not a one-way religiousness;
- - to enter into intimate union with Christ, going far beyond being shallow.

What is it to know "the power of [Christ's] resurrection"?

- - This is to personally experience that kind of power that transforms one's life. (cf. Ephesians 1:18-20)

How can a believer acquire or experience this 'know the power of Christ's resurrection'?

How can a believer become like Christ in His death?

- - grow into Christ's likeness;
- - self-sacrificing to the maximum.

v.11

How do these things cited in verse 10 work together "somehow to attain to the resurrection from the dead"?

Is this passage essentially saying that as true believers, in order to experience God to the fullest, we each have to walk down the same kind of path in life that Christ walked, going through the same kinds of experiences that Christ did? Why does God want us to do that?

Are each of you even interested in going through the same kinds of experiences in your life that Christ did?

Are you even interested in knowing Christ in such fullness, which are derived from similar experiences with Christ?

Are you even interested in so deeply pursuing the knowing of Christ in such fullness that you are willing to become like Him in His death?

If you pursue any of these aspects of knowing Christ more fully, then what do you expect it will cost you, both what you have to give up and what you have to take on? Make a list of expected items for both.

Notice though that Paul thought it was worthwhile to pursue this knowing Christ to the fullest in all of these cited aspects. So then, what did Paul come to realize that we do not comprehend yet?

MAIN POINT: What would you say is the main point in these verses?

IMPORTANT SUB-POINTS: What are some other important points God is making here in these verses?

APPLICATIONS: What applications can you think of for how we should respond to the concepts in these verses?

PERSONALIZED APPLICATIONS: From these verses, what do you think God wants you to learn, or know, or remember, or put into effect in your life? How are you going to do that?

Works Cited:

Bible. "The Holy Bible: New International Version." *The Bible Library CD-ROM*. Oklahoma City, OK: Ellis Enterprises, 1988.

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