

THE GREATEST WORTH

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-9

BACKGROUND: To get to know someone, you must spend time with them.

IS KNOWING JESUS. “This verb indicates the most intimate knowledge of another person. It is not Paul’s aim *to know about Christ*, but personally *to know him*.” William Barclay, The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians, p. 63. “None are so blind as those to whom religion is mainly a matter of ritual.” Alexander Maclaren, Expositions of Holy Scripture, Vol. 12: The Acts, p. 82. Head knowledge can puff up and is of little value, whereas heart knowledge of our Lord is of infinite value. Intimate knowledge of our Lord and Savior is gained in times spent in sweetness and solitude with Him mulling over His Word. (**Philippians 3:8, fn 3:8, I Corinthians 8:1-3, fn 8:1-3, John 10:10, 14-15, 27-29, I Corinthians 2:13-16, fn 2:15-16, Jeremiah 9:23-24, fn 9:23-24**) *How and when could you spend time with your Lord meditating on His Word?*

IS NOT BY LEGALISM. It is obtained by God’s grace, His power or work in our lives. Grace is what He has done to make us acceptable to Him. Law or works are what we try to do to make ourselves acceptable. We spend time with Him, not to make ourselves acceptable, but because He has already done so; and we want to know Him more and bring Him joy and glory. As we spend time with Him, the Holy Spirit, our teacher, will fill us with more and more of His knowledge and we will experience the joy of His presence. (**Philippians 3:9a, fn 3:9, Romans 9:30-33, 10:1-5, fn 9:31-33, fn 10:3-5, Romans 8:14-17, fn 8:14-17[1st]**) *Why is your personal relationship with Jesus your greatest worth?*

COMES ONLY BY FAITH IN CHRIST. “Experience has proved that anything whatever introduced as associated with faith ejects faith from its place, and comes to be recognized as *the* means of salvation.” Maclaren, p. 81. It is not faith plus circumcision, faith plus baptism, or faith plus anything else; but it is by faith alone in Christ alone that we are saved. (**Philippians 3:9, Hebrews 11:6, fn 11:6[1st], Romans 3:28, fn 3:28, Romans 4:16, fn 4:16, Romans 4:23-25, fn 4:25**) *Why does Jesus use faith alone as the basis of your relationship with Him and the only way to obtain His righteousness?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

