Really Knowing Jesus

Socrates said, “Know thyself.” Science says, “Know the world.” Jesus says, “Know Me.” Paul understood very well - nothing has greater value than knowing Christ.

> “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of **the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**… that I may **know Him**, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (Philippians 3:8-11, abridged, NASB).

Paul knew two things here, one: that his highest goal is to know Christ and two: that He is the only way to resurrection from the dead (heaven!). But Paul knew yet a third thing: the key to knowing Christ is His word. Jesus died to ratify it and we will be judged by it (John 12:48). When Jesus prayed in the garden the night of His arrest, He asked His Father to, “Sanctify them in truth, Thy word is truth,” (John 17:17). Without the truth of God’s word, we cannot be sanctified.

Paul never had dinner with Jesus. Paul met Jesus only on the road to Damascus - **after** His ascension back to heaven. Yes, he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write scripture, but by that very inspiration he also knew that nothing, not information, not emotions, not fame nor fortune - nothing surpasses the value of knowing Jesus! But without the written word, which Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to author (John 14:26), we simply will never know Jesus! King David wrote 2,000 years ago, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path,” (Ps. 119:105). Likewise, today, Gods word is vital to knowing Jesus and knowing Him, “If you abide in My **word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine,” (John 8:31).

And perhaps Jesus’ clearest and most precious comment on the subject, **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him,”** John 14:23. Love Jesus? Want to really know Jesus? Learn His word and keep it. He’s waiting to come make His abode with you.

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