

The Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ

I. It brings Pardon from sins.

- A. "Knowing Him" makes this possible.
- B. Knowing Shakespeare, Caesar, J.P. Morgan, the King of England - will not do this.
- C. This is experimental, not intellectual, knowledge.
- Knowledge by personal acquaintance.

II. It provides power for service

- A. "the power of His res." = His Resurrection's power.
- B. Think what a great power it was that raised Christ from the dead.
- C. This same resurrection power is ours by faith, if we will only pay the price.
- D. Paul counted all other things loss for the gain of this kind of knowledge of Christ.

III. It gives the privilege of participating in His sufferings.

- A. A good way to know someone is to suffer with them.
- B. When we suffer for Christ we will better appreciate what He has done for us.
- C. Partaking in Christ's sufferings is cause for rejoicing for the believer. (1 Peter. 4:13) - For, if we suffer with Him we shall also reign with him.

IV. It gives the privilege of participating in His sacrifice - "being made conformable unto His death." Gal. 2:20

- A. This is the doctrine of crucifixion with Christ.
- B. To be dead in Him is far beyond merely suffering for Him.
- C. A dead person cannot complain about being ^{treated} mistreated.
- D. We need to mortify the carnal self.
"I die daily" - 1 Cor. 15:31
"bearing in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus." 2 Cor. 4:10-11
- E. Baptism is a symbol of this death (Rom. 6:3-4) but to most Christians it is only a symbol and not a reality - v. 6 "old man crucified."