

Winter Park Christian Church: Pastor Samuel Ruiz
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A life Worth Living **Pursuing Christ with Passion**

September 16th & 17th, 2017

Philippians 3:7-11

As we look at Paul's passions in his life, he clearly defines the values of a life that is worth living in the Kingdom of God.

A passion to know Christ

"Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..."

- ❖ Several times in this chapter Paul writes of his willingness to lose everything for one reason, the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Knowledge: "gnōsis (a feminine noun derived from 1097 /ginōskō, 'experientially know') – functional ('working') knowledge gleaned from first-hand (personal) experience, connecting theory to application; 'application-knowledge,' gained in (by) a direct relationship."¹

- ❖ As Paul realized the call of God in his life, he pressed on to grow in the knowledge of God.
John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."
- ❖ If we want to grow in our experience of Christ, we must desire Him above anything else.
Mathew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
 - ◆ As we consider the importance of growing in the knowledge of Christ, we must commit to seek Him above anything else in our lives.
2 Peter 3:18 "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."
 - Through the Word of God.
 - John 5:39; John 5:36
 - Through prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit and His revelation of Jesus to us.
 - John 15:26; John 16:12-15
- ❖ As we grow in our knowledge of Jesus, we will have a better understanding of the gospel, and more confidence in the work of His salvation.

A passion to gain Christ

"... For His sake I suffered the loss of all things and count them rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ"

To gain: "kerdainō – properly, to profit (gain), an ancient mercantile term for exchanging (trading) one good for another; (figuratively) to exchange (trade out) what is mediocre ('good') for the better, i.e. 'trading up' (cf. Js 4:13)."²

- ❖ To gain is a trading term as in business, meaning that when we value Jesus more than anything else in our lives, our profit will be Christ Himself and all the things that He has for us.

- John 12:23-26
- ❖ It was God that revealed to Paul that it is possible to have everything a man wishes to have and yet completely waste his life.
 - If our confidence is in the flesh, we will find disappointment because the works and the fruits of the flesh are rubbish.

Philippians 3:3 “For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh”
- ❖ A life well spent is a life in which we acknowledge our personal inability in every area through our own strength, yet in Christ we trust that we are competent through Him.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
 - 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
- ❖ As we grow in our knowledge of Christ, we will “profit” in Christ and then we will grow in our ability to be ministers of life.
 - When we serve and live by the flesh, we will find disappointment; but if we grow in our knowledge of Christ, we will gain confidence to minister and serve well!

A passion is to be found in Christ

“and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, ...”

- ❖ As we grow in our knowledge of Christ and as we gain Christ, we realize that it is only by His plan of salvation and the righteousness and purpose of God that we are able to accomplish anything in the Kingdom of God and this is only through Christ as we believe in Him.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:9-11
- ❖ The secret of success in the life of Paul was that he had learned to surrender everything and grow in his knowledge of Christ as he operated by faith in His grace for ministry.

Endnotes:

¹ "HELPS Word-studies: 1108 gnósis" *Helps™ Word-studies* © 1987, 2011 by Helps Ministries, Inc. Quoted on Biblehub.com. © 2004 - 2016 by Bible Hub. <<http://biblehub.com/greek/1108.htm>>.

² "HELPS Word-studies: 2770 kerdainō" *Helps™ Word-studies* © 1987, 2011 by Helps Ministries, Inc. Quoted on Biblehub.com. © 2004 - 2016 by Bible Hub. <<http://biblehub.com/greek/2770.htm>>.

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