

# Proclaiming the Gospel

Message  
of  
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;  
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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## Know HIM!

It is significant that the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us, of which the writer of The Book of Hebrews writes, were people whose mother tongue was not the language of my homeland. How marvelous that the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us for these thousands of years were my brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ though our mother tongue is different. The Holy Bible was written by the Lord God using some of these people and their language.

My colleague studied with Wycliffe Bible Translators years ago. She learned that in order to translate the Bible to another language from the original Hebrew and Greek so that the indigenous people could learn of Jesus Christ, one had to come to understand their understanding of word meanings.

Language is important. Understanding the meaning of words as they were written is very important if one is to have an understanding of the Holy Word of God.

Let me clarify that it is more than knowing well your mother tongue in reading the Bible as translated into your language. One must **know** the Holy Spirit and have ears to hear and a heart to walk in obedience to the Word. I clarify this as there are those who believe one can just open one's mouth and whatever comes out is of the Holy Spirit. I believe we must not use this as an excuse for improper study of the Word of God (II Tim 2.15). We do not serve a God of confusion.

Point in hand:

If I ask,

"Do you know Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God?"

One might answer,

"Oh, yes! I read a book about Him some time ago."

Others might answer,

"Oh, yes! I heard about Him in a church."

Another might answer,

"Oh, Yes! I was introduced to Him by a friend."

Let us go from this point to beyond having read about Him, having heard about Him, having been introduced to Him.

Hear the prophet Habakkuk (Hab. 3.17-19)

Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither [shall] fruit [be] in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and [there shall be] no herd in the stalls:

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.  
The LORD God [is] my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' [feet], and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Habakkuk, like all the Old Testament prophets, **knew** the Lord God of Israel!  
Do you? Do you *really* **know** the Lord Jesus Christ?

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess, The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.  
**Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ**

*Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).*

Paul says, “That I may **know** him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Phil 3.10). Paul, who had a dramatic (and traumatic) experience in meeting the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus, desired more and more of Jesus. His writings are never about, Oh, yes, I met Jesus. Others have sought Jesus but when they found the cost in **knowing** Jesus, many turned another way. John tells us that many of the disciples of Jesus turned away from Him (Jn 6.39-71).

When the rich man in Matthew 19.16-22 was told he must sell his possessions and give to the poor and then “come and follow [Jesus],” the Bible says he went away sorrowful for he had many possessions.

The Lord makes it clear that those who want to **know** HIM must be willing to deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Jesus. “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any [*man*] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me” (Mt 16.24).

You may say, “To know someone is to know them. What is the ‘deal’ about the word?” There are multiple levels of knowing. As I stated previously, there is a knowing about, a knowing of, a knowing someone from just having met the person; but to **know** HIM in the manner of which Paul writes in Philippians 3.10, “That I may **know** him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings . . .” is an intimate **knowing** that leads a person, a follower of Jesus Christ, to lay down his life. This **knowing** involves a love of which the world knows nothing – nor do a lot of church-goers and pulpiteers.

**Knowing** Jesus Christ in the understanding of the Hebrew word (יָדָע *yâda’*) is an intimate **knowing**. It goes beyond knowledge; it is being one with Jesus Christ. When we are one with the Lord Jesus Christ, we will no longer see ourselves and who we believe we are. We will see Jesus and walk with Him all the way.

Remember Peter in Matthew 16.16, “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Peter indeed **knew** Jesus Christ. He walked and talked with Jesus, yes, but he listened to the Lord Jesus Christ with his whole being and followed after him as did ten of the other disciples. One knew Jesus, met Jesus, but walked a different way and betrayed Jesus Christ. There are many today, as always have been, who met Jesus but chose another way. Simon the Magician, in The Book of Acts, met Jesus but chose another way. There are many who meet Jesus Christ then choose to walk with the world, with Satan – though they are seen in “churches.”

Remember Job? Job said, “For I **know** [*that*] my redeemer liveth, and [*that*] he shall stand at the latter [*day*] upon the earth” (Job 19.25). When Job said this, he was talking about **knowing** his redeemer and that his redeemer lives, his redeemer reigns for ever and ever. Job said this in the midst of

adversity, great adversity. Yes, Job **knew** Jesus Christ in faith looking to His coming (Job 19.25-27).

And [*though*] after my skin [*worms*] destroy this [*body*], yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; [*though*] my reins be consumed within me.

Jesus Christ has always been. Yes, Jesus came to earth and dwelt among us, but the incarnation was a point in time in which Jesus came to earth from heaven. He later ascended to heaven – from whence He came.

Job trusted his redeemer with his life because he **knew** his redeemer intimately and walked with HIM and worshiped HIM and loved HIM; he walked in obedience to the Lord God in Jesus Christ. Job **knew** the Lord so intimately that the Lord knew that he could allow Satan to attack Job knowing that Job would be faithful. This is a oneness in the Lord, a walking by faith and not by sight.

Let us look at the apostles in Acts 5.41 who rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the Lord Jesus Christ. This is out of an intimate relationship, a **knowing** the Lord Jesus Christ. This is walking by faith in the midst of adversity trusting the Lord Jesus with one’s life.

You can trust someone with your life only if you **know** the person. I am talking about **knowing** Jesus – come what may in your life. When you walk with the Lord and know that you are walking in obedience to His will, you can trust the Lord that He is with you through it all – come what may.

The prophet Isaiah says:

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called [*thee*] by thy name; thou [*art*] mine.

When thou passest through the waters, I [*will be*] with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

For I [*am*] the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt [*for*] thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee (Isa 43.1-3)

Know that this is given to us through the prophet Isaiah whom we believe was sawn asunder. Take time to read Hebrews 11 and you shall know what it is to **know** Jesus Christ as did the great saints of old, to **know** Jesus with that great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us (Heb 12.1). This is powerful. Those of whom the writer of The Book of Hebrews writes have a powerful testimony to share with us in **knowing** the Lord.

Read His Word, the Holy Bible, and ask the Holy Spirit to quicken (make alive) in you His presence, His Word, and walk with Him – all the way. Trust Jesus with your life in all things – even in the midst of adversity.