

The Servant



Newsletter for Christian Servants 5523 Newberry Drive/Raleigh, NC 27609

Vol. 14 No. 2

March 2004

A Passion for Christ

Paul had a passion. He had a passion for Christ. It was expressed in his desire to "Know Him." He said "That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering being made conformable unto His death." This passionate desire was a simple expression of a genuine, and personal faith in the Son of God. Here is the Quest of Faith, the Best of Faith, the Test of Faith and the Rest of Faith. It begins with the simple desire to know Him. The Bible is the world's only Him book. There are many Hymn Books, but there is only one Him Book. The Bible is all about Him. From the beginning to the end, it is all about Him.

He was the one who created the heavens and the earth. Genesis is the witness to His great work. John tells us that "all things were made by Him." Colossians tells us that all things were made "by Him and for Him." We know this because it is written in the Him Book. John 1:10 "The world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not." Paul came to understand it was all about knowing Him.

John the Baptist was born for a single purpose which was to "bare witness of Him." John realized that at most he was a voice. Jesus Christ was the Word. It is all about Him. "He must increase," he said "I must decrease."

Philip found Nathanael (1:45) and declared "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." The Bible is the Book where millions have found Him. It is the Him Book.

On the road to Emmaus, two discouraged disciples were joined by the resurrected Savior who cared enough to hurry after two men going the wrong way. He took them to the Him Book. Luke 24:27 and beginning at Moses and all the

prophets, he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." It is not enough to know all about Moses, and the Prophets. They needed to know Him. Paul understood that this was the reason the Bible was given. Where is He? Who is He. What does He want us to do? It is not about me. It is not about you. It is all about Him. While all this sounds so obvious, it seems at times hard to find Him is all the religious marketing, ministry, and methods of the church today. In Matthew 2:11 the wise men, after finding "him" also fell down and worshiped Him." They did not worship Mary, or Joseph. They worshiped "Him." That is what we were born for. The Bible is the "Him" book. In Matthew 28:9, once again we see men who saw Him and fell down and worshiped Him.

The "Him" book helps us to find Him and to know Him. Then we must decide if we will follow Him, Obey Him, Serve Him and Be like Him.

Twenty-First Century Hymns

It is His Word, God's breath
His voice, the voice that Adam heard
One word brings life, another death.
One word can call the light to shine
And one can change the water into wine
And one can summon Lazarus from the tomb
Another dispatch a sinner to his doom.

One day this Word came into our dark earth
One day the Logos knew a baby's birth
One day the incorporeal Word was flesh
To cleanse the air and make life fresh

One day the Word that God had spoken
Was crucified, yet no bone broken
For it was as the Word had said
Christ would die then rise up from dead
His Word is eternal, His Word is life
His Word a fire, a sword, a knife

His Word is Spirit, that fills faith's lung
His life the lyric, that must be sung.

The Bible is faith's Curriculum

To all who would "know Him," we recommend the Bible. Believers spend too much time reading chaff when God has given wheat. Christian novels are pulp fiction. God's Word is living. The church has turned to hundreds of supposed "short cuts" to knowing Him. Front row ticket to Hollywood's depiction of the crucifixion is not as effective being taken there with God's text. Paul wrote to the church at Philippi: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:5-11.

Here is a beautiful outline of a lifetime of study:

1. "Equal with God." That is Deity. No one really know Him until they know and understand that Jesus Christ is God incarnate. He is the Word become flesh. What an awful mistake to mistreat Jesus of Nazareth. What man did to God when He visited this planet should make men tremble.
2. "made in the likeness of men." That is Humanity. No one knows what man is supposed to be, or might hope to be until they know Him in his perfect

humanity. The Bible says that He went about doing good.

3. "He humbled Himself." This is Humility. How different we are. We strive. We push our way to the front of the line. We take the biggest piece. We do not know that God gives grace to the humble.
4. "obedient." This is Ministry. To know Him is to know what a servant is. Christ came not to be served, but to serve. This is the purpose of life. The church is filled with servants doing what they want to do rather than what God wants to do.
5. "even the death of the cross." This is Agony. We cannot know Him apart from the cross. The cross explains everything. The cross is the vortex. The cross is the centerpiece. A failure to understand Christ on the cross is a failure to understand salvation.
6. "Exalted Him." This is Victory. Those who would keep Him on a crucifix do not really know Him. He is exalted. He is risen.
7. "bow." This is Majesty. Those who really "know Him" as Paul desired are found at His feet. Real belief bows.

It will take more than a lifetime to know Him. Knowing Him will be our occupation in Heaven. We must start here. Like Paul we want to know Him in the Power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His suffering, and we want to know Him as we are made conformable to His death- and thus to His life. ☹

"It's supposed to be about Him"

Son Shine

There is nothing hid from the heat thereof (Ps. 19:6)

What a cold world this would be without the Bible. The Bible warms my heart. The picture the Psalmist draws is one of the ministry of the Sun. Every corner of the earth benefits from the ministry and work of the sun. How foolish to remove the sun from its place. The sun not only makes things bright, it also holds everything together. David's song is not as "unscientific" as it is in the language the common man could understand. In David's day most believed that "we" and the earth was the center of things. That was a mistake then and even a greater mistake today. Christ must be the center. Now we know that Copernicus was right and that Columbus was not wrong to sail West. That having been said, the poetry in this psalm of psalms speaks with the tongue of the spiritually learned. What the sun is to the world and all its living things- so the Word of God is to those who will listen. No wonder we open the Book of Books and sing "Shine, Jesus Shine." ☹

Rise

Rise thou Son thou King of days
Shine Oh Word and show thy ways
warm the seed that thou hast sown
make my heart the field you own

Bring up from the broken sod
praise and fruit a joy to God
Shine thou Savior, day spring, dawn
as thy Book is opened every morn

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