

Knowing Jesus in His Resurrection

Thomas Robinson, *Life and More Life 4*, May 26, 2019

Philippians 2:12-13; 3:7-16 (Translation TR)

2:¹² As a result, my beloved family, just as you always listened to me, not only as when I was there with you, but now much more when I'm separated from you, I want for you – with a seriousness that makes you tremble – to **work together to bring your own salvation to full realization!** ¹³ You can do this because **God is the one working in among you**, both to **desire** it and to **accomplish** it as an expression of what he knows is **beautifully pleasing**.

3:⁷ But whatever were “**gains**” to me, I've come to consider as “**loss**” because of the **Messiah**. ⁸ But beyond that, I consider **everything** as “**loss**” in comparison with the **one superlative thing – knowing Messiah Jesus as my Lord**.

Because of him I've experienced the loss of all things, and I label them “rubbish” in my accounting of life, in order that I may have **the Anointed Messiah as my gain**. ⁹ I always want to be **located in him**, not having my own status of righteousness defined from Law, but a status brought about through **the Messiah's faithfulness**, the status of **righteousness from God** that he bestows on **faith**.

¹⁰ **My aim is to know him** and the **power of his resurrection** and a **partnership in his sufferings**, by living more and more **shaped by his death**. ¹¹ I long, by whatever path I must follow, to arrive at that victorious **rising from the dead**.

¹² I've certainly not already obtained this, nor have I already been brought to complete maturity. But I **am pursuing the goal to grasp it completely**, because **Messiah Jesus has grasped me completely**.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I for myself don't think this process is at all finished. **One thing** rather: by **forgetting the things that are past** and by **straining forward to what lies ahead**, ¹⁴ I am pursuing the goal for the prize that is **God's call to the heights** that we receive in **Anointed King Jesus**.

¹⁵ If you want to know what **maturity** is, it's when we **think this way**. And if you're thinking in some other way, **God is going to uncover this** even to you. ¹⁶ Only let us walk faithfully step by step in all that we've so far attained.

Luke 24:25-32 Jesus after his Resurrection is with two disciples on the road to Emmaus

²⁵ And he said to them, “You unthinking people, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Wasn't it necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and so enter into his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning from Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Didn't our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened the Scriptures to us?”

Matthew 6:33

³³ Seek first God's kingdom and his faithful righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you.

Matthew 5:48

⁴⁸ You, therefore, will be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect.

John 20: 14-16

¹⁴ Mary Magdalene turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you seeking?"

Since she supposed that he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus – Resurrected but Unrecognized

Paul writes to the believers in Philippi from a hard situation: he's in prison and they're facing persecution. It focuses the mind. He helps them think about life and death. He takes them into the core reality that brought him to them and changed their lives: In Jesus God showed his self-giving love concretely. By raising the human Jesus from death, God shouted that Jesus taking our suffering is God's very identity LORD/Yahweh.

But really grasping the meaning of resurrection has always been hard. The Gospel resurrection narratives point to this by recounting how disciples often could not recognize Jesus. Road to Emmaus: prod, scripture, bread. Mary Magdalene: name! We live with death. New glorious physical life beyond death is challenging. What does it mean? We snap back into old fears, old priorities. We lose who we are in Jesus. Paul leads the Philippians into knowing Jesus in his resurrection by modeling the path.

The Challenge: From Hymn to Community Project

Paul want them to "think" the reality of the hymn of Jesus by putting it into practice. He solemnly challenges them. But it's not to individual "works" salvation based on fear. This is a community working together in loving and caring for each other, and taking that so seriously that they realize life and death are at stake. Love, laughter, inclusion, joy, and empathy are the most serious things in the world. They're to do it together! It is doable only because God is part of the community, creating desire and fulfilling it so that the community becomes an outpost of the new world of God's beautiful kingdom.

Knowing Jesus – The Radical Make-over

Paul knows the challenges. He takes them through his own experiences. He had positive accomplishments. But as God brought him to see the reality in Jesus, they lost their decisive quality. God raising the crucified Jesus was a divine exclamation that turned all other values upside down. Paul had been really good at Torah – within his reach. Jesus pushed him to a life quest totally beyond his reach. But Jesus reached out and took hold of him and set him on a quest to learn the self-giving love in Jesus' death.

True life is beyond human accomplishment. It is a quest new every day. But it is already given in Jesus. God exalted Jesus to the heights! In Jesus we receive nothing less than that same call. A life of beauty, justice, and love now. Life that is true victory over death.