



“WHAT REALLY MATTERS”

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CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

TO UNDERSTAND WHAT REALLY MATTERS YOU NEED

Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Philippians 3:1 (NLT)

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PUT EVERYTHING IN PERSPECTIVE

1. _____ best is _____.

Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—though I myself have reasons for such confidence. Philippians 3:2–4a (NIV)

2. _____ best is _____.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. Philippians 3:4b–9 (NIV)

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6 (NASB)

3. _____ best is _____.

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:10–11 (NIV)

KNOWING JESUS PUTS EVERYTHING IN PERSPECTIVE

IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOU KNOW JESUS?

1. Through the _____ of Jesus' _____.

We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him...consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:6–8, 11 (NLT)

2. Through _____ in Jesus' _____.

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2–4 (NIV)

3. Through _____ like Jesus _____.

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:24b–25 (NIV)

Sources: *The Communicator's Commentary: Vol 8, New Interpreter's Bible Commentary: Vol X, Feasting on the Word: Year A, Vol 4*, and various illustrations from Preaching Today.



DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

1. How has your perspective changed through knowing Jesus? How has it affected your relationships, your job, the way you spend your time, etc.?

2. Take an audit of your life in conversation with the values of the gospel. Is the gain you have experienced in life true gain? Are your losses in life true losses? What really matters?

3. What does it mean to gain Christ and be found in him? What does it mean to know Christ? Does anyone want to become like Jesus in his death?

4. Have you considered the phrase “faith in Christ”? Many read it as believing in Jesus. What are the implications for us if instead the phrase refers to the faith that was *in* Christ? Is the faith that was in Christ taking hold of your life? What does that look like?

5. What are some concrete ways we can experience the power of Jesus’ resurrection this week? How might you witness to those who are suffering that the best is yet to come?

Don’t forget to check out our weekly bulletin! Click here: <https://conta.cc/3btrAVk>

ANSWER KEY:

To understand...you need **PERSPECTIVE**.

Need to know:

1. **THE WORLD’S** best is **NOT ENOUGH**.
2. **YOUR** best is **GARBAGE**.
3. **GOD’S** best is **CHRIST**.

Know Jesus:

1. Through the **POWER** of Jesus’ **RESURRECTION**.
2. Through **PARTICIPATION** in Jesus’ **SUFFERINGS**.
3. Through **BECOMING** like Jesus **IN HIS DEATH**.