

“Knowing Christ”

Intro: We live in an age of doubt and uncertainty. The very idea of truth is now being questioned. Yet all of us need to feel certain about some things. We want to know the answer to the big questions of life. And, one of the great things about being a Christian is the ability to say, “I know...”

Paul said the greatest thing that ever happened to him was “knowing Christ”.

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, (Philippians 3:8)

At the end of his life he could last back with no regrets, for he said:

for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. (2 Timothy 1:12)

Is such confidence and joy only for the apostles? Or can we too know Jesus?

We can know Jesus!

In more recent times the concept of historical knowledge has become suspect. Many argue that we can know nothing with certainty about the past.

Yet I submit that there are two ways to know truth.

Through first-hand experience

Paul’s knowledge of Jesus was first-hand. The Lord appeared to Him on the road to Damascus, changing his life forever.

The Lord, by the Holy Spirit, revealed the gospel to Him.

Thus Paul could say, “I know whom I have believed...”

Through the testimony of those with first-hand experience

Ill. with a hidden object: Do you know what it is?

You knew the truth even when you had not experience it first-hand.

Our knowledge about Jesus Christ is no less certain because it depends upon the testimony of those with first-hand knowledge, for that knowledge has come from those were willing will to die for their testimony.

And so we too can speak confidently about what we “know” about Jesus.

We know who He is

We know that He is the “bread of life” (Jn. 6:35).

“I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

We know that He is the “light of the world” (Jn. 8:12).

“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

We know that He is the great “I am” (Jn. 8:58).

“Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” (John 8:58)

We know that He is the “good shepherd” (Jn. 10:11).

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. (John 10:11)

We know that He is the “resurrection and the life” (Jn. 11:25).

“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26)

We know that He is the “true vine” (Jn. 15:1).

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. (John 15:1)

We know that He is “the Christ, the Son of God” (Jn. 20:30-31).

Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)

We know how He lived

He lived to please the Father.

“And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.” (John 8:29)

He lived to speak the Father’s word

“For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak. (John 12:49)

He lived to do the Father’s will

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (John 6:38)

He lived to glorify God

“I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do. (John 17:4)

He lived without sin

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

We know what He did

He revealed the Father to us

No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (John 1:18)

He showed us how to live

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, (1 Peter 2:21)

He performed many miracles

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— (Acts 2:22)

He died for our sins

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:3)

He arose from the dead

and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:4)

We know where He went

He entered into heaven itself

For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; (Hebrews 9:24)

He ascended to the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb. 1:3).

When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high; (Hebrews 1:3)

We know what He is now doing

He is reigning over all

For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. (1 Corinthians 15:25)

He is making intercession

Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

We know what He is going to do!

He is coming to get His people

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

He is coming to judge those who do not know God and obey not the gospel
dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. (2 Thessalonians 1:8)

We know who He is going to save!

He is going to save those who obey the gospel.

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16)

Who is going to save those who remain faithful unto death.

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

Conclusion: There are lot of things in this world we simply cannot know; but it is comforting and assuring to “know” the most important things in this world—to “know Christ Jesus our Lord”. Do you know Him?