

Teaching Notes : "The Surpassing Value of Knowing Jesus"

NCC Celebration :: January 2012

Ken Primrose

1. **Philippians 3:7-14** "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.**"
 - a. Amid all the good things of the Christian life often the most neglected issue is the riveted fascination of the Church on the majestic splendor of Jesus. The Father wants to return the First Commandment (Matt. 22:37) to first place in the Church.
 - b. Whatever God thinks is most important the devil will have a corresponding passion to undermine, distract, veil, hide, make appear foolish, awkward, etc..

2. **What is the knowledge of God what does it mean to know God?**
 - a. **Seeing God in the face of Jesus**
 - i. **Hebrews 1:3**
 1. Jesus is the exact representation of His (the Father's) nature
 - ii. **John 1:18**
 1. No man has seen God...He (Jesus) has explained Him (the Father).
 - iii. **John 17:3**
 1. When you see Jesus you see the Father
 - iv. **Jesus perfectly explains God the Father. When we see Jesus we are seeing an exact representation of the Father's heart and behavior.**

3. **Value of the knowledge of God:**
 - a. OT: my people go into captivity for lack of the knowledge of God
 - b. Shepherds who were after God's heart would feed his people on the knowledge of God.
 - c. Jesus was the True Shepherd. Jesus said his overall mission was accomplished in john 17:4,6: "I glorified you on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do...I manifested Your name to the men You gave Me..."
 - d. Knowledge of God is the very definition of eternal life (John 14:9)
 - e. The life of God and His nearness to us is bound to this issue of our pursuit of knowing him more.

- 4. The knowledge of God is something that we grow in**
 - a. 2 Peter 3:18 “but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...”

- 5. The knowledge of God is something that we see only dimly but that dim beholding transforms us**
 - a. 2 Corinthians 3:18: “but we all with unveiled faces beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 13:12: for now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face, now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.

- 6. The more knowledge of God we have, the more we are transformed**
 - a. 1 John 3:2: “...it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.”

- 7. We are always either growing in our knowledge of God or we are losing the knowledge of God we may have walked in a previous season.**
 - a. There is no neutral, no holding pattern, no plateau. Either gaining ground or losing it.
 - b. To him who has more will be given and to the one who does not have –even what he has will be taken from him.
 - c. Use it or lose it. We are either growing in our knowledge of God or we are losing the knowledge we have had. Jesus is becoming clearer, brighter, greater, vaster in our internal perspective or he is becoming smaller, more dim, less clear, less illuminated,
 - d. Your love of anything is limited by your intimate acquaintance. The more you know something or someone the more you can, in reality, love them. You can admire something or someone by knowing a lot of facts about them. But you can’t truly love someone you don’t know through experience over time.
 - e. **The only difference between a prisoner and a prophet is to deeply, experientially know the one you serve.**