

Why Knowing Jesus is So Great

Colossians 1:3-8

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. Colossians 1:3-8 (New International Version)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes . . . Romans 1:16 (English Standard Version)

The Gospel Contains Three Elements

- All people have sinned. (Romans 3:23)
- The penalty for our sin is death. (Romans 6:23)
- Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins. (Romans 5:8)

This passage contains **three reasons why knowing Jesus is so great.**

- **KNOWING JESUS MEANS YOU CAN STOP TRYING TO WIN GOD'S APPROVAL.** (See Colossians 1:6)

Grace = God's unmerited favor

Grace = the overlooking of past sin by God, and the present application of Christ's righteousness to our account.

God made him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

What Do We Need to Know About Saving Faith?

- Knowledge is not enough. (See Romans 1:32)

- Knowledge and approval are not enough. (See John 3:1-2)
- I must decide to trust Jesus to save me personally. (See Romans 10:11)

- **KNOWING JESUS GIVES YOU REASON TO APPROACH LIFE WITH OPTIMISM.**

When the true message, the Good News, first came to you, you heard about the hope it offers. So your faith and love are based on what you hope for, which is kept safe for you in heaven. Colossians 1:5 (Good News Bible)

Hope = confident expectation

. . . In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you. 1 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV)

(See Romans 8:28 and Philippians 4:6-7)

- **KNOWING JESUS TRANSFORMS YOUR LIFE AND ENSURES THAT YOUR EFFORTS WILL BEAR FRUIT.** (See Colossians 1:6-8)

The Gospel Produces Fruit in Two Ways

- Internal Transformation

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3:1-2 (NIV)

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, . . . 2 Peter 1:3 (ESV)

- External Growth

Also, every time a Scripture is in parenthesis, will you be prepared to project it? The one exception is “The Gospel Contains Three Elements.” None of that section needs to be projected. Also Romans 10:11 doesn’t need to be projected.

Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:32 (NIV)

“Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.” John 3:1-2 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV)

All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. Colossians 1:6-8 (NIV)