

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

1. Knowing Jesus Changes what we Value (7-8)

σκύβαλον (skybalon) - only use in the NT: dung, sweepings, refuse, rubbish.

2. Knowing Christ Transforms our Perspective Suffering (10-11)

For from him and through him, and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:36

*When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, **but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.*

1 Peter 2:23-24

God shows his love for us in that while we were sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Questions:

1. Warm up – what is one thing that you are thankful for this week?
2. How has knowing Christ changed what you value in life?
3. How have you experienced God's personal love for you? When did you feel/know that most deeply?
4. How aware are you of the Father's love for you? Does his love affect your personal sense of self (identity)?
5. What do you think Paul means when he says, "that I may know him and the power of his resurrection and may share in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."
6. If there is time have each man share one brief prayer and pray for one another.