

Things We Know

*But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...
– 2 Peter 3:18 –*

The older I get, the more I realize I don't know. It can be overwhelming at times. But the old saying, "It's not what you know, but who you know" is a pithy reminder for believers that while much in this world may escape our grasp, there is a priceless experiential knowledgebase to our existence that became our property when we fled for refuge to the hope that is in Christ.

"We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Romans 8:22). There is a reasonable explanation for the deteriorating condition of the universe. The scientific law of entropy makes sense and is explained by the curse. This helps us to honestly rationalize the most painful events in this life.

"I know that in my flesh dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18). Paul's inspired words encapsulate the perspective of every honest heart. When our measure is only ourselves or others, we are not being wise (2 Cor. 10:12). An open weighing of our hearts before God leaves us with the stark realization that there is nothing good or commendable about us. This is a vital thing to know.

Yet because of the redemption that we received in Christ, "...we know that we are of God, and that the whole world lieth in wickedness" (1 John 5:19). Despite our inward unworthiness, the Spirit took up residence in response to our faith. Someone moved in and reminds us that we are not our own. Because that abiding Guest within is Holy, we realize that this world with all its wickedness is not our home, so we need not get comfortable and settle down in this City of Destruction. Life will be a battle.

But even though life is a battle, it is one in which we have the upper hand. This is because we "know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings" (Philippians 3:10). Our spiritual knowledge is not just informational, but personal – and the Lord Jesus is that Person. We know Whom we have believed, and that fully persuades us that He is keeping us against the coming day (2 Tim. 1:12).

Speaking of that future day, we know quite a bit. For "we know that we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2). That risen Man in glory is the sum of God's thoughts concerning us, and He has predestinated us to be conformed to His image. We can boldly assert with Job, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh will I see God" (Job 19:25-26).

Are these not wonderful things to know? Let us live today in the power of this knowledge and grow therein. -- D. Murcek