

Welcome both congregation members as well as new friends.

Intro myself, thanks elders for encouraging Leon for preaching seminar and worship leaders

Philippians 3:1-11 HCSB

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write to you again about this is no trouble for me and is a protection for you.

² Watch out for “dogs,” watch out for evil workers, watch out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by the Spirit of God, boast in Christ Jesus, and do not put confidence in the flesh— ⁴ although I once also had confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he has grounds for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day; of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; regarding the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ regarding

zeal, persecuting the church; regarding the righteousness that is in the law, blameless.

⁷ But everything that was a gain to me, I have considered to be a loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them filth, so that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead.

How do you KNOW what you say you know?

1997 Martha's earplug story, Dawn dish soap

POINT? What are the Veils of influence that cloud how you know what you say you know?

Brief context of verses 1-9, will spend most of the time on verse 10

Verses 1-9

Paul's goal, to **know** Him

Know is *gnōnai* which in the nt shows up in 2 different ways, as in a practical sense where the disciples, in order to know the answer to Jesus question, count the loaves and fish but also where Jesus knew the intents of the Pharisees hearts when they came to test him. So there is a practical sense and a spiritual sense both associated with this form of the word. Then Paul is saying that he wants to know Christ as he works out his salvation in fear and trembling while also wanting the spiritual revelation and wisdom that the Holy Spirit ALONE can give us that he speaks of in Ephesians chapter 1

VEILS/Tozer/Paul's intellectual or stringent Jewish lens is
How he knew what he said he knew Lets discuss some
veils and how they can affect your lens of reality.

Emotions

These are a God given gift that has a specific purpose. That purpose is to assist in guiding us concerning His desires, intentions and actions that prove His dwelling in us. Mercy, sorrow, generosity, hope and anger as mentioned by pastor Leon in his sermon 2 weeks back, even fear can direct us to act appropriately corresponding to a need in others.

Emotions are not to be used as a judge as to the truthfulness of a given situation, circumstance or as a verifier of Gods truth.

They are fickle and as James says, in 1:8 that a double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James is speaking about how our mindset toward actual truth and how our living by faith defines and proves Who we actually believe, God or circumstances. Remember our title, **How do we know what we say we know?**

, a who could be substituted for what n this instance.

Does God care about me or is His declaration that I am worth more than a sparrow a lie?

Peter's misguided passion in rebuking Jesus or cutting off the servant's ear

Book when helping hurts, undiscerning compassion

Philippians 4:6-8

Do not be anxious about anything

Proverbs 16:32

Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty

Proverbs 25:28

A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

Galatians 5:16-24

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality,

impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, faction, envy, drunkenness carousing and anything similar. ...

Intellectual

George MacDonald

“I firmly believe people have hitherto been a great deal too much taken up about doctrine and far too little about practice. The word “doctrine” as used in the Bible, means teaching of duty, not theory—I preached a sermon about this. We are far too anxious to be definite, and have finished, well-polished, sharp edged systems— forgetting that the more perfect a theory about the infinite, the surer it is to be wrong, the more impossible it is to be right.”

I am troubled by today’s mindset that places equational thinking: where everything has an answer, a formula and a correctly defined way of thinking, with more emphasis on correct doctrine than what is the spirit of God Himself saying or doing. The reformed mindset is so set on this

that I fear we miss God. That is what Jesus so often spoke of in rebuke to the Pharisees. He chided them for swallowing a camel but straining on a gnat. Reformed thinking is frightened by the possibility of God moving, that we as frail people will become too radical, too emotional, too..... There is a balance to be found, and that does NOT come about by ignoring or superficially assenting to what we say we believe as we verbally acknowledge, but virtually ignore the new testaments verification of Gods mighty acts.

How do we know what we say we know?

See the screen for some scriptural references

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation **of Jesus Christ**.

1. Renew the mind

a. Logic-i.e., God helps those who help themselves vs the reality that He helps ALL because we are all helpless

b. Constant media bombardment-tv, news, celebs, politics, Facebook, twitter, YouTube, that ALL clamor to indoctrinate our minds

c. True conspiracy theories we must recognize

i. 1 Peter 5:8 Devil roams

ii. Gen "Has God said?"

2. World

a. Education, indoctrination

b. World is our enemy-ie evil workers, Paul references

As Packaged By Others

- a. Parents and early environment – (thank your parents)
- b. Other believers-popular evangelists, our pastor
- c. Chew the meat, spit out the bones
- d. Discern principles or preferences and realign with truth of Scripture vs baby and bathwater
- e. Being a self-feeder- There are many half-truths that give a partial account of actual scripture that we need to be aware of and correct when we encounter them. How will we know what to say if we haven't grasped the scriptures ourselves sustained only by milk from our pastor verses the meat we need to feed on ourselves. Al Kresta-CS Lewis and Smith Wigglesworth, Gal who memorized the entire new testament and few ot books

As we conclude I'd like to give you a few ideas on **how to more accurately know what we say we know?**

2 Corinthians 13:5 Paul tells us to test ourselves to see if we are in the faith.

The best way to tell if "how you know what you say you know" is correct, is to compare your thoughts/actions/intentions to the scriptures so any veil we have may be removed. Remember Paul says to the Corinthian church, that we currently see in a mirror dimly but the Psalmist tells us Gods word is a light unto our path.

I will ask you some questions so you can get an accurate idea of where you are at in this vital self discernment.

Do you walk the narrow straight road Jesus refers to in Matthew 7:13-14 He says that few are they that find it, FEW. **Its better to know now what we DON'T know so we can correct it.**

As Jesus took up His cross and commands true believers to do the same, do you know yours, are you daily taking it up? Luke 9:23

Jesus says you must lose your life in order to find it. Have you lost your life to Jesus and the will of God? Matthew 10:39

As Jesus gave an example in Matthew 13:46 about a real estate developer who found the Pearl of great price, who then sold all he had to purchase this ONE piece of property.

Altar call about veils of deceit, or pride, or I was born in the church, all my family have gone to church, I am a good person, or all roads lead to or???? Jesus says I am the way the truth and the life NO ONE come

As we close, this upcoming week in your time with Jesus, would you ask to know him, as Paul knew Him, and as scripture defines who He is. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate your understanding erasing any veils that hinder your fully knowing Him.