

Paul saw trials, testings and tribulations as a means to an end – a glorious end. Outward pressures enlarged his capacity for grace! God sufficiency increasingly replaced self-sufficiency (II Cor. 3:5, 9:8).

Beyond such, Paul was suffering because of his witness for Christ – content not because of offensive tone – and he therefore counted it an honor to suffer as Christ for Christ, who had suffered everything for him (Acts 9:16).

Paul was almost “other worldly!” In II Corinthians 11, we have over 40 things cited he suffered because of his service to Christ.

It was the apostle, not some ivory tower professor who wrote: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” II Cor. 4:17-18

Summarization

“being made conformable unto his death”

“the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” Colossians 3:10

“grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” II Peter 3:18

“we all (New Testaments saints collectively in contrast to Moses singularly in the Old Testament), with open face beholding as in a glass (mirror) the glory of the Lord (Christ), are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” II Cor. 3:18

When the child of God looks into the word of God and sees the Son of God he is changed by the Spirit of God into the image of God for the glory of God.

Is your greatest desire to be more like Christ than anything else in the world? The more we are like Him, the better spouse, parent, church member, employer, employee, person we will be!

BREAKTHROUGH CHRISTIANITY

What Made Paul Tick, Click & Stick!

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings” Philippians 3:7-16

Introduction

The greatest Christian of all time may have been the apostle Paul.

Outside of Christ, the greatest theologian of all time!

The greatest missionary – evangelizer and discipler – of all time!

The greatest Christian practitioner of all time – “zeal according to knowledge” – as he applied his doctrine in every day life. His general pattern in his epistles is doctrine then application.

Even was at times a Christian businessman – as a tent maker.

We have his heart opened up to us in Philippians 3.

READ: Philippians 3:1-16.

Notice the phrase: “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded” in v. 15. In other words, Paul’s thinking should be our thinking!

Let’s jump right into the midst of the 16 verse passage – by focusing primarily on v. 10.

I. WHAT MADE PAUL TICK!

“That I may know Him.”

Paul obviously had a better understanding of the person of Christ than any of us will have this side of eternity!

He was the direct recipient of revelation from “God Himself” on Christ.

He put it into action and taught and preached it to others. And so, who Christ was and what Christ was settled deeply into his heart – **yet he wanted to know Him better!**

This is the nature of true love.

You have heard it said about someone, “What makes that guy tick?” In other words, what drives that guy? What causes him to do what he does?

Illustration! I use to ruin some of my toys as a kid – battery powered ones – after I had them awhile. Curiosity would get the best of me and I would take them apart to see exactly what made them tick. I had a Stanley Steamer car that use to puff out smoke at the radiator. I wanted to know what made it scone...

Of course the term tick has especially to do with what makes a watch or clock work? Before batteries, we would wind up our watches creating tension on a spring that drove the little gears. What is your mainspring – why do you do what you do! Why are you what you are?

Illustration! When I got a little older, my toys just got bigger. One day I dragged home a 1956 2-DR Hardtop Dodge Coronet. Three-tone – yellow, black and white. Straight body and I got it for only \$50.00. It had a 392 Hemi in it! My dad’s reaction was...let’s say, uncooperative. I had great dreams but I did not have enough skill, tools, facilities, or money to know at that time what really made a car run to get that one running.

I could dream but I could not do! We can dream of great churches, marriages, parenting, Christian service, but unless what makes us tick is what made Paul tick, we will not be and do for the Lord what is needed!

To Paul, the model Christian – the one we should emulate (copy) – knowing Christ better was the most important thing to him!

II. WHAT MADE PAUL CLICK!

“That I may know...the power of his resurrection”

You’ve heard it said, “That guy just clicks!” In other words, he just knows what to do! He fits in perfectly with what he is doing. He is a success.”

Paul has the power of the resurrection in mind when he speaks of the “power that worketh in us” in Ephesians 3:20.

When Christ came up out of that tomb, He arose into the heavenlies with greater glory than any rocket known to man!

The New Testament went into effect and the level of grace it provides was released to believers when Christ arose from the dead!

It is the power for us to live the Christ-like life!

It is the prosperity of Isaiah 53:10 – “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and **the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.**”

The difference between Peter the morning of the crucifixion when he three times denied Christ even to some women and some 53 days later when on the Day of Pentecost he declared Christ to thousands in the shadow of the temple was the resurrection power of the Spirit of Christ within!

Enlightenment to better understand truth! Enablement to boldly utter truth! Enrichment to better undertake (live out) truth!

III. WHAT MADE PAUL STICK!

“That I may know...the fellowship of his sufferings”

How many Christians have “plateaued” – leveled out – because of great trials?