**R823 - Rumination for November 8, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **To Know and Win Christ**[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *- That I may* ***know*** *Him…* Phil. 3:10

The **T**hots:

Intro: **P**aul was **P**repared **W**ithout any doubt **W**hatsoever to *count all things but loss…*

1. **Paul’s New Perspective – …*that I may win Christ*** **Phil. 3:8a**
2. He was **P**repared to **L**ose all his Gains: 3:4-7

*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ, viz.:*

1. His so-**C**alled “**C**onfidence” in his Gains: *Though I might also have confidence in the flesh.* Phil. 3:4-6

*If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:*

1. He was***C****ircumcised the eighth day,*
2. He **C**ame from *the stock of Israel,*
3. He was a **C**hild *of the tribe of Benjamin,*
4. He was **C**onsistently *an Hebrew of the Hebrews;*
5. He was **C**onscientious in keeping the Law, *as touching the law, a Pharisee;*
6. He zealously persecuted all **C**hristians *- Concerning zeal, persecuting the church;*
7. He **C**ould be **R**eckoned among the **R**ighteous - *touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless*
8. Yet, all these Paul **C**ounted them as “*dung*” (**R**efuse), *filthy* ***R****ags of* ***R****ighteousness*! Cf. Isa. 64:6
9. He was **P**repared to **L**ive only for His **L**ord, Jesus Christ:

*Yea doubtless, and I count all things…but dung, that I may win Christ.* Phil. 3:8

*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.* Cf. Phil. 1:21

1. He wanted to Know Him more through the **R**evelation of Himself.

*I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:*

1. He wanted to **L**ive out his **L**ife for Him more in **R**elationship to Him.

 **C**ost what it might (even if it meant Suffering) He would **C**ount all things as **L**oss just to know **C**hrist!

*for whom I have* *suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ*

1. **Paul’s New Prospect:*****That I may know Him…* Phil. 3:10**

**To Live for Him and to Experience…**

1. **P**ersonally *the* ***P****ower* *of His resurrection* in his own Life!
2. The **P**ower of Christ’s Resurrection:cf.Jn. 10:18

*No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down,*

*and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.*

1. Cp. the **P**ower of God unto salvation. Rom. 1:16

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation*

*to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

1. Cp. the **P**romised **P**ower of the Holy Spirit in Witness. Acts 1:8

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

* Paul was living out the Power of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

1. The **P**artnership with Christ in *the fellowship of His sufferings*

He might suffer for the Present…

1. But he would **R**eign with His Lord in the future. II Tim. 2:12

*If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us:*

1. And he **R***eckon(ed) that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared*

*with the glory which shall be* ***R****evealed in us.* Rom. 8:18

1. The **P**roduct of *being made conformable unto His death;*
2. Jesus was Obedient unto **D**eath - Phil 2:8
3. *Being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death,*

*even the death of the cross.*

1. *Saying, Father, if Thou be willing, remove this cup from Me:*

*nevertheless not My will, but Thine, be done.* Lk. 22:42

1. Paul himself **D**eclared that he **D**ied **D**aily. I Cor. 15:31

*I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

1. Which is to *be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,*

*that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* Rom. 12:2

Con. This is also the **D**ay, that the Lord has appointed for us to remember His **D**eath – I Cor. 11:26

 *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come*.

 *May I be willing, Lord, to bear Daily my cross for Thee;*

 *Even Thy cup of grief to share, Thou hast borne all for me.* Jennie E. Hussey

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 823**

1. Paul and Peter both knew what it was to suffer with and for Christ and even

being ready to die for Him. In fact, both died the martyr’s death.

*The exact details of****St****.****Paul's****death are unknown, but tradition holds that he was beheaded in Rome and thus****died****as a martyr for his faith. His death was perhaps part of the executions of Christians ordered by the Roman emperor Nero following the great fire in the city in 64 CE.*

<https://www.google.com/search?q=how+did+st.+paul+die&rlz=1C1CHBF_enMY876MY876&oq=how+did+st.+paul+die&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i22i30l7.9181j0j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

***HOW DID THE APOSTLE PETER DIE?***

*Peter Was Martyred. Tradition tells us that…Peter died as a martyr. When he was given the choice of how he should die, he said, “I’d like to be crucified up-side-down because I am unworthy to die as my Lord died.”*

*The Scriptures do not record this request of Peter. However, John 21:16,19 alludes to the fact that Peter would die a martyr’s death:*

*“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou [Peter] wast young thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. This spake He, [Jesus] signifying by what death he [Peter] should glorify God. And when He [Jesus] had spoken this, he saith unto him, [Peter) Follow me.”*

Liberty Bible Commentary, Vol. II (page 258) states concerning John 21:18,19 as follows:

“*Christ prophesies that one day Peter’s freedom would cease. ‘Old’ – This indicates that Peter will have a long, useful life of service. ‘Thou shall stretch forth thy hands’ – This language could refer to crucifixion, and church tradition concurs that this is how Peter died. ‘Glorify God’ – What confidence the Lord gives to the one who had denied Him. Peter would be faithful to the end, and would bring glory to God through his death. ‘Follow me’ – The Lord calls Peter to a life of total commitment to Him*.”

In this text from John 21 Jesus is, in effect, saying to Peter, “*Peter, you said you were willing to go to prison and to death for Me,” [see John 13:36,37] “and you are going to do it. When you were young you went your own way, but when you are old you are going to be bound with chains and taken to prison and death for Me*.”

And if we can trust early church history, this is just what happened (probably some time between AD 67 and AD 70), because Peter was in prison for Christ’s sake and he was taken out to death [see 2 Peter 1:14,15]. They were going to nail him to a cross, and Peter said, “No, no! My Lord died like that. I am not worthy to die as He did.” Then Peter said, “Hang me on that cross head downward.” (Ref. John, pp. 889,890, H. A. Ironside)

<https://www.biblesprout.com/articles/bible/apostle-peter-die/>

Peter knew what it was to suffer for Christ. Not only was he prepared to suffer for His faith in Christ, He wrote much to prepare the Christians in his time to be prepared to suffer for Christ if they claimed to be followers of Christ. He lived in a time of great persecution under the cruel Roman emperor Nero, and according to tradition, was crucified as His Master was.

Paul and Peter lived and died for Christ as they taught in their epistles and in their exhortation to the Christians to whom they wrote. Thy lived and died by example.

Not all of us are called upon to live such a life and die such a death. Though many today are, in certain parts of the world! And they live up to their faith though it may cost them their lives.

Can you identify yourself with them? Will you pray for them? **REFLECT**

1. Paul and Peter associated suffering for Christ as an essential part of the Gospel they preached. Peter stated in very clear terms: *Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf*. (I Pet. 4:16). Many of today’s so-called evangelists invite people to believe in the gospel to experience prosperity and wealth, peace of mind and well-being, freedom from worries and enjoying life, fun and fellowship. Is this what Paul meant when he said, he *suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*

What do you understand to be a Christian? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** Paul said, *“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”* Phil. 1:21

 Unfortunately for some, death ends all gains.