

“Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Walk as children of light”

Ephesians 5:7-8 ESV



## Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32220

### Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

[www.mariettacoc.com](http://www.mariettacoc.com)

### The Value of Knowing Christ

“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish so that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3.8, NASB1995).

There are many men and women who have vast amounts of knowledge in their professional field, some of which I couldn't even begin to wrap my brain around. And many are doing, or have done great things with the knowledge they have gained that have had profound benefits on society. As great as it is, knowledge of earthly things such as science, math, technology, business, physics, engineering, etc. is only beneficial while here on earth, they have no bearing on the soul of a person.

That is why Paul writes to the Philippians “I found all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus.” To have a knowledge of Christ Jesus far outweighs any earthly knowledge we may gain. Paul understood the value of knowing Christ, and was willing to lose everything to gain that knowledge. Why is knowing Christ so important? It is the only way to gain an eternity in heaven. To know Christ is more than just a surface level understanding of who Christ is, it's much deeper. It involves a total surrender and submission of ones life to the will of Christ. Paul goes on to say in verses 10-11, “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” ...

Paul knew the cost of knowing Christ, it meant sharing in the suffering, and possibly even death. Paul also knew the reward for knowing Christ is much greater than anything suffered in the flesh.

The only way we can know Christ is through a study of God's word. The more we study, the more knowledge we gain about how to model our lives after Christ, and grow closer in our relationship with God. So what are we willing to give up to gain the knowledge of Christ? We should be willing to part ways with anything that keeps us from growing closer to God, even if it means losing family, friends, job opportunities, social events, hobbies and so on.

Most importantly the knowledge we have gained needs to be put on display. Are others seeing the knowledge of Christ in us? Are others seeing Christ in us by our actions? Our lives need to be living proof that Christ is still alive today, because we may be the only Bible some people ever read.

Written by; Derek Steen

### **The Right Attitude Toward God and Man**

#### **Psalm 16.1-4**

How does one think about God and his fellow man — both saint and sinner? The psalmist tells us here of his attitude toward God and then how this determines his position toward groups of mankind.

First, notice that the psalmist has “put his trust” in God and, from the depths of his being, has said, “Thou art my Lord.” The KJV rendering of verse 2b says, “my goodness extendeth not to thee” instead of the ASV translation, “I have no good beyond thee.” If the KJV is correct, it is evidently a statement by the psalmist that nothing he does merits anything by God, that God does not need our services — He cannot be benefitted by them, they do not add anything to His infinite perfection and blessedness. (Much as David said in 1 Chronicles 29.14 of the offerings given for the temple: “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? For all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.”)

However, the ASV rendering, “I have no good beyond thee” seems to be the idea here. If this is correct, this becomes the explanation of the words, “My Lord art thou,” i.e., “You are my highest treasure; nothing can ever mean anything to me as You do.” This is the proper attitude that faithful children of God must have toward their father.

Now, with this strong commitment toward, and trust in, the heavenly Father, one's position toward those in the world — saint and sinner alike — will be right.

Next, then, the writer shows his high regard for the saints, those who have the same attitude toward, and esteem for, the Lord (verse 2). “As for the saints that are in the earth, they are excellent in whom is all my delight.” The psalmist recognizes that he is of one mind with these people, and he takes pleasure in them and in their company. David, though a king felt this bond of fellowship with the righteous: “I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that observe thy precepts (119.63). We, too, should delight in the saints and in our association with them.

Conversely, in verse 4 the psalmist utterly detest association with the other group: “Their sorrows shall be multiplied that give gifts for another god: their drink-offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take their names upon my lips.” This of course, must be understood in the light of psalm 1 which shows that a strong conscious aversion to sin is one of the characteristics of a true man of God. He would no *participate* with them (2 John 9-11; 2 Corinthians 6.14-18). However, we must have some contact with worldly people (1 Corinthians 5.9-11; Ephesians 5.7-11), else how would we convert them? (Matthew 5.13-16; Luke 5.29-32).

So, the psalmist sets forth here the proper attitude toward God and man. Put this psalm in to practice by placing your trust in God and saying “You are my Lord;” covet the association of fellow Christians and shun the companionship of this who would lead you astray.

Written by; Brent Lewis

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