

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Ms. Dannels, Mrs. Douglas, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Siota, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

Oak Grove Church of Christ Bulletin
2922 NW 76th Terrace, Jennings, FL 32053

August 1, 2021

Knowing What Passes Knowledge

By Derek Long

In Ephesians 3:14-21 Paul tells the Ephesians some things he desires for them. One thing Paul wants for the Ephesians is for them, "to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19, NKJV). A casual reading of this passage may lead someone to think, "How is it possible to know something which passes knowledge?". It will be our attempt in this article to attempt to explain how Christians can "know the love of Christ which passes knowledge."

First, let's consider some ways in which it is possible for a Christian to "know the love of Christ":

1. A Christian can know of the love of Christ by reading of what Christ did on their behalf in the Bible. 1 John 3:16 says, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (NKJV). A Christian can know Christ loves them because of what the Bible reveals Christ did on their behalf.
2. A Christians can know the love of Christ by having experienced the love of Christ. Christ's love for us enable us to be saved from our past sins and have the hope of eternal life (John 3:16). Christians know this love as they have experienced the love of Christ in receiving the forgiveness of their

sins. It would be Paul's desire for the Ephesians to perhaps recognize what a wonderful blessing they have experienced in receiving the forgiveness of sins through the love of Christ.

It is important to remember the love of Christ is knowable. It is not something a person must remain completely ignorant of.

Now, let's consider some way in which the love of Christ "passes knowledge":

1. The extent of Jesus' love is such it is at times hard to completely comprehend why He would love us so. Ephesians 3:18 talks about "the width and length and depth and height" (NKJV). To totally understand or appreciate the full extent of Jesus' love for us may be something which is impossible for us to do.
2. We can understand a person loving a good person but it seems so hard to imagine a person giving their life for a wicked individual (Romans 5:6-8). In this respect, the love of Jesus might in some ways pass our knowledge.
3. People sometimes wonder why would God send Jesus to earth. People might also wonder why Jesus would come to earth and be willing to die for sinful men especially knowing the vast majority of them would end up rejecting His love. When a person asks such questions, they obviously show it is possible to know about the love Christ displayed but at the same time the love of Christ passes their knowledge. They can explain to you what Christ did to demonstrate love for mankind. However, they cannot explain the degree of love which Jesus has shown toward us.

4. Despite our best efforts to describe the love of Christ in human language, our best efforts will probably still fall short of describing just how wonderful Jesus' love is for us.

Hopefully these thoughts help us as we attempt to understand how we can "know the love of Christ which passes knowledge" (Ephesians 3:19, NKJV).

One important thing to remember about the love of Christ is that the love of Christ is capable of saving even the worst of sinners. Paul describes himself as the chief of sinners and yet Jesus was able to save him (1 Timothy 1:12-16). Romans 5:20-21 points out that where sin abounds, grace abounds much more. The love of Christ is great enough to forgive a person of all their sins if they will be comply with the terms of pardon which Jesus has laid out (Mark 16:15-16; Luke 13:3, 5; Matthew 10:32-33; 28:18-20). Will you receive the forgiveness which is made available by the "love of Christ which passes knowledge"?