

For Sunday March 29, 2020 Devotion

KNOW HIM Short study

What are some of the things we know? Romans 8:28-39

Paul considered everything else rubbish in comparison with **knowing Christ**. His handling of circumstances came from what he knew of God, that he was called, purposed, that opposition will come but God will work it for good for what is being done now, for the saving of many lives.

*“²⁸ And **we know** that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

What we know determines the outcome.

How we view things makes a difference. (From Genesis 45:1-8 we see forgiveness and purpose outworking). Genesis 50:19-25 esp.: *“¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “**Don’t be afraid**. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, **don’t be afraid**. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.”*

‘Don’t be afraid’ – purpose is revealed.

There is a battle – Paul had learned to be led by the Spirit and to take every carnal thought, every negative emotion captive to Jesus; he knew he was a new creature in Christ. Galatians 2:20.

Wider reading: Acts 27-28 esp: v21-26:

*“²¹ After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: “Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. ²² But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. ²³ Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴ and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul. **You must stand** trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.’ ²⁵ So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. ²⁶ Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”*

Paul knew he was called; knew he would get to Rome because told him ‘you must stand’ Paul would still go to Rome because God had said, and *everyone reached land safely*.

Acts 27:44-2:10

May we encourage you to:

- Know Christ, and to know He is in you
- Know that you are a new creature, empowered to answer the call and fulfil His purposes for you
- Know and understand that opposition must come (Luke 17:1)
- Know that in all things, God works for the good - He works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.