

- » What is the source of your confidence?
- » In what or whom?
- » Bow River in the Rockies source in Bow Glacier and runs all the way to Hudson Bay

1. Status » We live in a society concerned with status - How much money, recognition, fame, power, education, awards, merit do we have?

- » The Apostle Paul was also aware of his previous status (v4b-6)
- Spoken in the context of a legalistic approach of knowing God – ie. adding circumcision as a path to knowing God (v3)

"I consider all these gains as loss" (v7) The key is knowing Christ this is the central great purpose of life - in comparison all else is as 'rubbish' (v8)

"Rubbish" » All else is rubbish in terms of our status before God » V 9 - Not an approach (righteousness) based on personal achievement/works » Not on law or Torah

- » Rather an approach (righteousness) based on Christ and his work (v9) » This righteousness I make my own through faith in Jesus Christ (2x 'faith' in v9)
- Faith

 » Not a mere intellectual assent but a personal 'yes' to the person of Christ

 » It is like the faith of the flyer trusting in the action of the catcher
- Faith means trusting in the faithfulness of God.

 Earl F. Palmer
- 2. Knowledge

 » "the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" (v8)

 » "I want to know Christ" (v10)
- » Knowledge based on knowing as personal relationship not simply knowing as information (see Jeremiah 9:23-24)
- » Knowing as a process whereby we embrace our ultimate goal/ the course of our life of knowing God in Christ
 » A considered resolve of seeking God in all areas of one's life

Two Areas of Knowledge

- 1. The power (dynamite) of the resurrection (v10)
 - The living power of Jesus in my life as I meet the challenges of life

- 2. The fellowship (koinonia) of sharing in Christ's suffering
 - Speaks to the voluntary displacement of entering into the thick of life and not running away from it
 - Speaks of the left-handed power of God who is in solidarity with us

3. Conformity of Life

- » "Becoming like him in his death" (10b)
- » Becoming like = conforming; morphing into the same form (1x in New Testament)
- » A desire to imitate the likeness of Christ in values and actions
- » Enter into the service and love of Christ for others
- » With the goal of entering into resurrection life life overcoming the reality of death (Greek nekros) v11

- » Embracing joy as the centre of our lives because we are touched by resurrection now and not simply death
- » Joy because our confidence is in God who is our ongoing source of life
- » Joy in making the connection of Jesus as our righteousness and our power
- "Better to have the Messiah, and to follow him through the cross to the resurrection, than to have anything and anyone else in the world."

Tom Wright