



KNOWING CHRIST

BY MARK JONES

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In the Introduction to his book *Knowing Christ*, Mark Jones talks about the impact J.I. Packer's classic work *Knowing God* had on him as a young Christian when he first read the book at a Seattle Mariners' baseball game (The book, he says, was far more riveting than the game). To this day, *Knowing God* continues to have a significant impact on his Christian life. This caused Jones to ask, "What about knowing Christ, the Son of God?"

It's a good question, for we can only love Christ more by knowing him better. And that is the purpose of this book, which Jones explains in the Introduction: "This is a book for God's people, not the academy. This is a book designed to give God's people a glimpse of the person of Christ. In short, I write that people may know Christ better than they already do, and so love him more" (xiv). If you want to know Christ better and so love him more, this book is for you.

Reading *Knowing Christ* is like looking through a kaleidoscope; each of the short 27 chapters gives you a different glimpse of Jesus Christ, whether it's Christ's Divinity, Christ's Emotions, Christ's Sinlessness, Christ's Death, or Christ's Intercession.

Turning to each chapter is like turning a kaleidoscope that gives you a unique, breath-taking view of Jesus. I read this book devotionally several years ago, and it helped me know and treasure Christ more.

In the chapter entitled, "Christ's Humiliation," Jones writes, "The Son who thirsted was the same who made water; the Son who was too tired to carry his cross was the same who upholds the entire world; the Son whose side was pierced was the same who gave breath and life to the one who did it. The incarnation of the Son of God... was truly an act of humiliation" (119).

Then turn to the chapter entitled, “Christ’s Exaltation,” where Jones ponders what it was like to be in heaven when Jesus returned after his death, resurrection, and ascension. He asks, “What about the joy when Jesus arrived to take his seat at the right hand of the Father?” Quoting John Owen, he answers: “No heart can conceive, much less can any tongue express, the glorious reception of the human nature of Christ in heaven” (172).

There is much concerning the glory of Christ that no heart can conceive and no tongue can express. Those two chapters alone—on the humiliation and exaltation of Christ—present soul-stirring views of Jesus Christ that help you to know Him better and love him more.

J.I. Packer wrote the Foreword for *Knowing Christ* in 2015. In 2020, J.I. Packer went to be with Christ and knows his Savior far better than ever before. In the Foreword, Packer asks, “Have we ever, up to now, worked our way through any book that fully displays our Savior as the brightest lights in the historic Reformed firmament have viewed him? Here is such a book: are we interested?”

Here is a book that will help us know Christ better so that we can love Him more. Let me ask, “Are you interested?”

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