

was truly a Lord and become a Christian Paul ~~had~~ was. Certainly if there was one that had a right to absolute confidence that he was saved and was going to heaven where Christ was it was Paul. But Paul says, I count not myself to have apprehended but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Paul was saved, yes. Paul was saved for all eternity. Paul was one of the greatest ~~servants~~ servants of God in all history. Paul was one who understood divine things as much as anyone had, who has ever lived. But Paul was pressing on to know Him better, to know Jesus Christ, to know God and Christ whom He had sent, to make progress in the knowledge of God, the Deepening Knowledge of God.

Now let's look briefly at the aspects which Paul particularly mentions here. There are other aspects. Some of them are touched upon ~~in~~ in His prayer for the people in Eph. But this grt. ambition of Paul, "That I may know Him" summarizes it all of course, summarizes it much more than is expressed further on. But yet there are certain aspects of it that he feels deserve particular attention and so he mentions them here. "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection." In the passage in Eph. he stressed this also -- the power of His resurrection. He developed it a little more fully than he does here in this statement of His ambition, he says, "what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe; according to the working of His mighty power which He wrought in Christ when he raised Him from the dead." This is the grt. central miracle of Christianity.

I was talking to a young man some yrs. ago who was a student in a liberal seminary. AS I talked with him, he said how he found it difficult to believe that Jesus walked on the water, and he couldn't quite believe that Jesus <sup>actually</sup> had performed a certain miracle. He couldn't believe that Elisha had made the axe head to swim. He couldn't believe these different miracles. And he couldn't believe that Jesus was ~~Virgin~~ virgin born. And I said to him, "Do you believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ?" And he looked at me and he stopped. And he said, "Well, if you can believe that a real man was really dead and that he was raised from the dead into full life again, he said, if you can believe that what's the use of even talking about these other miracles?" Now of course the modernists don't usually talk a great deal about denying the resurrection; it is central. But they talk about other