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TO KNOW JESUS

BY D.B. KNOX

THE PROTESTANT FAITH

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We live in a very beautiful country. The sea, the beach, the breakers, the cliffs are beautiful, the forests and valleys of the mountains, the waterfalls, the ferns are equally beautiful though quite different. At this time of year, those who have the opportunity of going to the snow country see overwhelming beauty of nature quite different again. The harbour and country scenes are beautiful too.

The beauty of nature is on every side. But, of course, it is not confined to our environment. Travellers go all over the world to see the wonders of nature - canyons, mountains, waterfalls, pastoral scenery. The world is certainly a very beautiful place. It is a marvellous creation, reflecting a marvellous God.

But not only nature, but also mankind, of which we are all members, is wonderful. How marvellous is our nature, full of ability and ingenuity, expressing itself in all the clever contrivances and inventiveness of life, full of possibilities of friendship and love, full of nobility and heroism, even in our fallen state. Mankind is a wonderful creation and the world of nature is a wonderful creation but the most marvellous thing of all is that the Creator has related himself to us in a human and close bond by taking our nature, and living among us as a man. Born at Bethlehem, living at Nazareth, God the Creator, without ceasing in any way to be God, related himself to us, whom he had created in His own image, by being a man, Jesus the Lord.

He did more than that. He allowed himself to be



treated by men in the way that men treat one another. He was rejected, He was most unjustly flogged and executed. But in suffering this wickedness He has used mankind's wickedness to triumph over wickedness. He overcame wickedness and has provided a way by which wicked people, that is to say, you and me, may be forgiven for our wickedness, for the fact, for example, that one hardly ever gives a thought or thanks to God for living in and enjoying this beautiful world and the pleasures it provides. We are not what we ought to be, either in our gratitude to God and obedience to Him, or in our care and concern for other people, and for all this we will have to give our account to the Author and Creator of our life and we will receive the consequences. Yet it is Jesus, our great God and Saviour, who rescues us from this wrath to come. He can save us from the consequence of our sin for He has allowed these consequences to fall on His own head.

If we pray to Him He will save us and what is more, He will give us His friendship, a friendship which endures beyond death into eternity, as His human life has endured beyond death, through the Resurrection. He will give us His friendship, He will give us His Spirit to be present with our spirit. This, to my mind, is the most marvellous thing of all, more wonderful even than the marvels of creation, that our Creator should come down to us who hate God and fight with one another, and that setting us the example of service, should suffer our wickedness in order to save us from it, so that we might know Him.

To know God, not just in an abstract way, but to know

Him personally, what a possibility and what a privilege this is. To know Jesus and to experience the power of His resurrection is open to all of us who put our faith in Him. There is nothing which compares to this; pleasure, property, prestige, how tinsel these things are compared to knowing Jesus, our loving Creator. You should make this the one object of your life, to know Him. And how do we get to know Him: well, firstly, pray to Him regularly, make it a priority, speak to Him and let Him speak to you in prayer. Read the Bible. It is His word and you will know Him through it, for His Spirit wrote it and His Spirit will make it a living word to you. Seek Him in your fellow Christians, for His Spirit is in all His brethren. And you will find Him also in obeying Him, doing the thing you know you ought to do, for example, being absolutely honest and following His example of serving other people.

If you seek Him you will find Him, for He will make Himself known to you.

What greater objective in life can you have than to know Christ and be known by Him.

Everything else we might set our heart on is absolute rubbish compared to the surpassing excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus the Lord.

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