

Intellectual Ecstasy

Knowing who you are in Christ

#1 Intellectual Ecstasy – Joy over circumstance

#2 Intellectual Ecstasy – Exercising your mind to think right

Verse 7

Defending the Gospel, means that we will have to refute false teaching.

Confirming the Gospel, means pointing to the positive truths the Gospel displays.

#3 Intellectual Ecstasy - *What is it?* - Knowing who you are in Christ

Verses 8-11

This is how a knowledgeable and judicious love acts:

1. Well known that you approve things that are excellent.
2. You are not burdened and guilty and hindered by doubt and dismay.
3. Your mind is at work in approving excellence so that you will be sincere and without offence.

Intellectual Ecstasy - How to Know who you are in Christ

- #1 Approving of the right things.

- a. We will be sincere, without wax, when put to the light.

Intellectual Ecstasy - How to Know who you are in Christ

- #2 Living consistently with what we believe.

4. Our life will be filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ.

Intellectual Ecstasy - How to Know who you are in Christ

- #3 Our Lives will lift up God

In verses 12-13 Paul explains the necessity of his imprisonment so that the Gospel can reach the places of God's choosing. His boldness has helped others who fear being put into prison act with courage in witnessing.

In verses 15-20 Paul declares that some preach a spiteful Gospel and some preach it with a good Spirit. Some people were motivated to take up his affliction through preaching harshly. Any way it happened, Paul was glad the Gospel was being preached.

#3 Intellectual Ecstasy - Our Lives will lift up God

Verses 21-24

Paul has a struggle that takes place in His mind. What shall I choose? I do not know! Living furthers the work of Christ, dying ends the work. This struggle left Paul between a rock and a hard place. He wanted to be with Christ but knew that it was more necessary to stay and continue to build the ministry.

Verses 25-26

Paul knew that his presence brought joy of faith to the people.

Knowing who you are in Christ will allow you to exercise your mind over your circumstances and have joy.

As you look at yourself in Christ, is it through the telescope or the microscope?