

human being. You know something about them. You know ~~x~~ certain aspects of their character. You have a certain amount of understanding of them. But you don't really know them. ~~How~~ I've often had people say to me--they had ~~been~~ been engaged for maybe five years--they had been together constantly; they had ~~been~~ discussed everything, and yet they said that after they were married it seemed like meeting an entirely new person. It seemed as if the whole thing was entirely different, so much was there to learn that they never ~~had~~ dreamed of before in the knowledge of the other person. And if that is true of people in marriage, even then they don't truly know each other. There are depths and aspects of personality in every human being that only God knows. We know only a certain amount about ~~the~~ others, but to know Christ, the one most infinite ~~personality, the One who is~~

personality, the One who is the SEcond Person of the Trinity, the One who was from all eternity, the One through whom God created all things, to know Him, this is an ongoing on-going blessed experience that can last forever, ~~and~~ and He wants us to make great progress in it in this life. That we may know Him, and of course we learn Him through the Bible. Christ is not an abstraction; Christ is not an imaginary thing. Many people use the term "Christ" for all sorts of things. The Modernists talk about Christ as if He were just a sort of symbol for ethical value, or a symbol for social progress, or ~~a symbol for~~ almost anything in the world they have in mind they may call Christ. But ~~there~~ (their) Christ is real; He's a Person person, and He's described in ~~the~~ the Bible; and to know Him we must study the Bible and find Him as He is presented there. And there are many aspects we need to learn about Christ. Every word of the Gospels has a meaning for every Christian, as ~~he~~ he comes to know Christ better. And every word of every other portion of the Bible, for all the Bible points to Christ who is its central theme. But Paul here stresses certain aspects about Christ which are particularly important. And if we knew everything else about him and didn't have these aspects we would have nothing. But we want these