

“HAVING THE TRUE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST”

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-15

TEXT: VERSES 10,11

INTRO: DO YOU KNOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR? Now I am certain that many of you will answer YES to that question for which I rejoice. But let's dig a bit deeper into this question by me asking, DO YOU DESIRE TO HAVE A DEEPER EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST IN EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE? Now perhaps you have never thought of that before, but in reality, this is what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote to the Philippians. Certainly, Paul knew Christ as Savior (Acts 9), but his desire was to have a deeper, more experiential knowledge of Christ. DO WE? So, today, let's study for a few minutes what it means to HAVE A TRUE, DEEP, CONSTANTLY GROWING, EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST THAT BEGINS AT SALVATION, BUT THEN ADVANCES MUCH BEYOND THAT, AS SEEN IN THE LIFE AND DESIRE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL.

OBSERVATION: In this context the Apostle Paul was expressing his personal desire to know and to grow in his knowledge of Jesus Christ and the biblical implication is that every one of us who are saved should have the same desire.

- 1) Verse 7: All of Paul's personal and religious gain had no value in comparison to his desire for Christ.
- 2) Verse 8: All that Paul gained in his personal and religious life, he counted as rubbish in comparison to his desire to know and experience Christ.
- 3) Verse 9: Paul recognized that TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS does not come through personal efforts of the flesh, but by FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE.
- 4) Verse 10: Paul expresses his desire to get to know Christ more experimentally ABOVE ALL THINGS.
- 5) Verse 11: Paul was anticipating HIS DEATH AND THE RESURRECTION OF HIS BODY AT THE RAPTURE.
- 6) VERSES 12-15: Paul uses the analogy of a runner to describe the CHRISTIAN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH. The Christian has not now, nor will he reach TOTAL CHRIST LIKENESS in this life, but must pursue it constantly. Note 1 John 3:2.

WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF THIS CONTEXTUAL TEACHING, LET'S NOW FOCUS ON VERSES 10 AND 11 TO SEE WHAT THE TRUE EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST IS ALL ABOUT. IT GOES DEEPER THAN MANY OF US THINK.

I. TO KNOW THE PERSON OF CHRIST – VS. 10a

“THAT I MAY KNOW HIM”

(“KNOW” IS “GINOSKO” = “TO UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY.” = NOT BY INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITY, BUT BY THE TEACHING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.)

- A. As Savior – To be delivered from Sin – John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 4:14
- B. As Lord – To serve Him as Master – Romans 1:104; 10:12,13; 14:9.
- C. As God – To worship as God – John 1:1; 20:28; Titus 2:13

II. TO KNOW THE POWER OF CHRIST – VS. 10b.

“THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION”

NOTE: Christ's resurrection most graphically demonstrated the FULL EXTENT OF HIS POWER. By raising from the dead, Christ displayed His power over both the PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL REALMS.

- A. Christ's Power over Physical Death – Acts 2:24, Romans 6:9
- B. Christ's Power over Spiritual Death – Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:14,15

III. TO KNOW THE PAIN OF CHRIST – VS. 10c.

“THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS”

NOTE: Paul expresses an interesting desire here. He wanted to share in the sufferings of Christ. **AMAZING! AND HE DID** - (2 Corinthians 11:24-28). In fact, Paul was ultimately decapitated in 66 AD (two years after writing Philippians) by the Romans Emperor Nero.

A. Godly Christians **ARE CALLED** to suffer for Christ – 1 Peter 2:21; 4:13

B. Godly Christians **WILL** suffer persecution for Christ – 2 Timothy 3:12

NOTE: To fellowship with Christ in persecution is an honor that will bring great reward.

1. Now on Earth – Romans 5:3-5
2. Later in Heaven – Romans 8:18

IV. TO KNOW THE PATTERN OF CHRIST – VS. 10d.

“BEING MADE COMFORMABLE UNTO HIS DEATH”

A. From Paul’s Perspective

-As Christ died for the purpose of **REDEEMING SINNERS**, so Paul had that same purpose but in a lesser sense because he was not the Savior, just an apostle. He lived and would willingly die to **REACH SINNERS** with the Gospel.

B. From Our Perspective

-QUESTION: **ARE WE WILLING TO LIVE AND DIE TO REACH PEOPLE FOR CHRIST? THIS WILL BE THE MARK OF THE TRUE COMMITTED BELIEVER IN CHRIST JESUS.**

V. TO KNOW THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST – VS. 11

“IF BY ANY MEANS I MIGHT ATTAIN UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD”

A. From Paul’s Perspective

-Paul did not care how God would bring it to pass, but he longed for death and for the fulfillment of the resurrected body that will come at the rapture.

-2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

B. From Our Perspective

-As Believers we anticipate the victory of death or the rapture, whichever comes first, which will take us into the presence of the Lord.

LESSON AND APPLICATION

AS THE APOSTLE PAUL WANTED TO HAVE A DEEPER KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST IN ALL THINGS, SO SHOULD WE.