

Knowing Jesus

Philippians 3:10

Intro

What does it mean to know Christ?

- Knowing Christ is not solely based on emotion.
- Knowing Christ is not having a large knowledge of his scripture.
- Knowing Christ is not just serving him.
- Knowing Christ is not just a combination of the above

Many Christians do not understand what it means to know Christ. *This is not to be a flaunt.*

Christianity is not an experience.

Context

1. Remember Paul wrote this while in prison.
2. There is joy in serving others.
3. There is joy in knowing Christ.
4. There is joy in the adequacy of Christ.

v10

Literal Greek: “Though, indeed, therefore, at least, even”

“**know**”: “*tou gnonai*” - expresses purpose. Present tense (continuously)

This is not knowing about Christ.

Vast difference between doing things for Christ and knowing Him. Write down everything that you can't do without - finances, degrees, work, spouse, children. Is there anything there that replaces your importance on the relationship with Christ?

Christ wants to live His life through you, not in you.

Christ is Paul's passion. What is your passion? Do you know Him daily? Friends that you really know are your friends because you have been through hell together - not a casual conversation. A healthy marriage does not grow out of having a stale knowledge of the other person - but constantly getting to know the other person.

Knowing Christ comes by gazing on the face of the person of Christ as presented in the Scriptures. It's hiding nothing from His eyes. It's submission to Him, in everything.

How do you know Christ even though you don't see Him?

Is God calling you to full-time Christian service? **We don't need full time Christian service as much as we need full time Christians!**

v10,11 The process

How do we do this?

“The power of His resurrection”

Rom 6:5: The process includes the resurrected life.

The Resurrection

Resurrection power works when all other hope is otherwise gone.

When Jesus died there was nothing left to live with for the disciples. But when the resurrection came they had a new vigor, a purpose.

Despair into hope, fear into joy, anger into forgiveness.

For a lot of Christians are “failing” because they are not hanging out with the power source of Christ.

Often we bring a self-centeredness attitude towards God. We have our own agenda, our own desires.

In sports when something isn't working you go back to the basics. *Same in the Christian life*. Are you “hanging out with Him”? Are you confessing your sin? Are you trusting Him? Is your attitude right? Are you reading His scripture?

The suffering

Suffering with Christ is a large part of knowing Christ.

In order to be resurrection, you must first die, and Christ suffered before He died.

God always suffers. (1 Cor 13:4 - “Love suffers long”). Love involves long suffering - patience - which involves pain.

We are going to suffer persecution. People are going to dislike you because you are a Christian!

Christ's own people threw Him out! Saying “He's nuts!!!” Right up to the point on the cross His siblings didn't believe Him at all!

“Psalm” - Greek (psalmoi) - the playing of musical instruments and by extension the words accompanying the music.

David's faint hope blossomed into full song of rejoicing in the Lord's greatness.

David learned the heart of God by his suffering.

The product

“To be conformed to his death” - you have a death

v11. “to attain the resurrection of the dead”. Refers to the likeness of Christ not the eventual resurrection of heaven (and thereby salvation).

Application

1. Saving knowledge of Christ
2. It must begin with a deep desire to know Christ (Ex 13:13)
3. Have a plan. Devotional time with the lord.
4. Dwell on these (sermon notes) truths. And also what scripture says.