

“Knowing Christ is Everything”

Philippians 3:4-11

I. THE WEALTH OF PRIVILEGES FADES. (vss. 4-5)

A. Religious Orthodoxy:

1. Circumcision. The 8th day, Gen. 17:12. Not an Ishmaelite (Gen. 17:25) who was circumcised the 13th year. Not a proselyte who was, perhaps, never circumcised or if so, only to partake of the Passover.

B. Family Lineage:

1. The Race of Israel. A pure descendant of Jacob.
2. The tribe of Benjamin. The Elite of Israel. Judah & Benjamin formed nucleus of reborn nation.

II. THE RICHES OF ATTAINMENTS DWINDLE. (vss. 5-6)

A. Family Heritage:

1. Hebrew Born of Hebrew Parents. His birthplace, Tarsus (Gentile city) did not corrupt his lineage.

B. Sectarian Pride:

1. A Trained Pharisee. Separated ones. Good spiritual athletes.

C. Religious Zeal:

1. Zeal. A persecutor of the church.

D. Self-Righteousness:

1. Legalistic Righteousness. Blameless as to sins of omission.

III. THE SURPASSING VALUE OF KNOWING CHRIST SURPASSES EVERYTHING. (vss. 7-10)

A. All Jewish privileges and attainments are total loss (vs. 7) for the sake of Christ.

B. To absolutely and experientially know Christ is Paul's goal (vss. 8,10).

C. All things, period, are loss to know several things. (vs. 10)

Phil. 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; [PERSONAL, POWERFUL and PAINFUL DIMENSIONS]

1. The Personal Dimension “That I may know (*ghin-oce-ko*) ...Him” (vs. 10a).

“...that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly...” AMP

John 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

2 Tim. 1:12 ... for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

a. Personal Relationship – we must be introduced to Him and strike up a relationship.

(a) He is my Lord.

John 20:28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

(b) He is my Savior.

Phil. 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

(c) He is my Shepherd.

John 10:14 "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me

2. The Powerful Dimension. "That I may know (*ghin-oce-ko*) the power of His resurrection" (vs. 10b).

- a. It is His "**power of an indestructible (indissoluble) life**" (Heb 7:6) that infuses new life into our souls and bodies, sustains the living church in the midst of a dying world, and offers hope for the new creation to come.
- b. This "**power of the resurrection**" replaces inner spiritual death by inner spiritual life by the life-giving Spirit. **John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**
- c. **John 11:25 "I am The Resurrection and The Life"**

3. The Painful Dimension. "That I may know (*ginosko*) ... The fellowship of His sufferings" (vs. 10c).

- a. To fellowship (sharing, partnership, participation) His suffering in a vicarious manner. **Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**
- b. One of the amazing things in the Apostle Paul's life is that he desires suffering—he requests it.
- c. Note the vicarious suffering, for and with others, in Paul's writings. **2 Cor. 11:24-28 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. (25) Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. (26) I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; (27) I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. (28) Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure on me of concern for all the churches.**

4. The Death Dimension. Gal. 6:17 "... I bear on my body the brand-marks of Jesus"
Illustrate the Morse family through Chuck Fordyce.

1 Peter 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps

Example here is to be understood: *Hupogrammos* (hoop-og-ram-mos) - under the grammar - to trace in outline, sketch out - writing to be copied; in short an underwriter