

Philippians 3: 1-11

The Priceless Value of Knowing Christ

Letter to the Philippians

- A letter of encouragement and discipleship (“A Life Worth Living”)
- Some brilliant theology, chapter 2: 6-11 – the nature of Christ... but mainly instruction and encouragement about living the Christian life
- The first members of the Philippian church: Lydia the businesswoman and Paul & Silas’ jailor and their families/ households. A church birthed out of the demonstration of the power of God (the slave girl and then the miraculous release of prisoners)
- Paul is writing from prison to a group of persecuted Christians, encouraging them to be joyful and draw strength from Christ through whatever circumstances they face.

Recap on Philippians...

- 1:1-11 (James) Opening greetings (focus on prayer) – *New Heart*
- 1:12-26 (Steve) Paul's personal circumstances – *New Purpose*
- 1:27-30 (Hannah) Living as citizens of heaven – *New Purpose*
- 2:1-11 (Matt) Having the attitude of Christ – *New Attitude*
- 2:12-18 (Barney) Shining like stars for Christ – *New Responsibilities*
- 2:19-30 (Donna) Timothy and Epaphroditus – *New Friendships*
- 3:1-11 (Today) The priceless value of knowing Christ**
– ***New Confidence and Ambitions***

Still to come:

- 3:12-4:1 Pressing towards the goal – *New Ambitions*
- 4:2-9 Words of encouragement – *New Resources*
- 4:10-end Thanks and final greetings – *New Generosity*

Philippians 3:1-11 (NLT)

The Priceless Value of Knowing Christ

3 Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

2 Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved.^{**3**} For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, ^{**4**} though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!

5 I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.

⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

*Rejoice in the
LORD always!*



Jehovah Tsidkenu
The Lord our Righteousness



whatever gain I had

I COUNT
AS LOSS

for the sake of CHRIST

Philippians 3:7

Knowing-Jesus.com

Philippians 3:10

*I want to know Christ and
the power of his
resurrection and the
fellowship of sharing in
his sufferings, becoming
like him in his death*



To reflect upon...

Standing in the righteousness of Christ...

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you **holy in his sight**, without blemish and **free from accusation** (Col 1:22)

Responding to the love of Christ...

When Jesus came by, he **looked** up at Zacchaeus and **called him by name**. "Zacchaeus!" ... Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in **great excitement and joy**. (Luke 19:5-6)

I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. (Phil 3: 10-11)

Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an **undivided heart**, that I may fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;

I will glorify your name for ever.

For great is your love towards me;
you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead.
(Psalm 86:11-13)