



**Knowing Jesus
Philippians 3:4-14**

I. Paul was religious before he was faithful...

Philippians 3:4-6 (NASB)

"...If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless."

II. After Paul was faithful, his perspective changed...

Philippians 3:7-9 (NASB)

"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith."

III. Paul wanted to know four things about Jesus...

Philippians 3:10-11 (NASB)

"...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

The word "know" in this verse is an experiential type of knowledge.

- **His Person** – to know personally through experience - Robert Lightner writes, "Paul already knew Christ as his Savior. But he wanted to know Him more intimately as his Lord."

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to spend a day with Jesus?

- **His Power** – dunamis – the same word is used in Acts 1:8 – "You shall receive power from the Holy Spirit." The same word is used in Romans 1:16 – "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

John 15:5 (NASB)

“...apart for Me, you can do nothing.”

Romans 8:31 (NIV)

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

- **His Passion** – service for the Lord regardless of the cost

2 Corinthians 1:5 (NASB)

“For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.”

2 Timothy 3:12 (KJV)

“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

- **His Purpose** – to make us like Himself – willing to sacrifice our lives for God’s purposes – Christlikeness!

Romans 8:28-29 (NIV)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son...”

1 John 3:2 (NASB)

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.”

IV. Paul wanted to grow in his relationship with Jesus...

Philippians 3:12-14 (NASB)

“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Do you know Jesus?

In 1 John 5:13, there is a different word for “know” – this is not experiential knowledge, this is absolute knowledge...

1 John 5:13 (NASB)

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”