

# That I Might Know Christ And The Power Of His Resurrection Philippians 3:1-11

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**Teaching Aim:** To understand why Paul could rejoice even in the most difficult of circumstances. To understand that religion apart from personally knowing Jesus by grace through faith is futile. To encourage each believer to strive toward the goal of knowing Christ more deeply and more intimately *“perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His person more strongly and more clearly”*.

## DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

### Part I: A warning against false teachers and false religion. (Phil. 3:1-6)

1. Is there a difference between happiness and rejoicing (**vs. 1**)? If so, what is it? What allowed Paul to rejoice even in the most difficult of circumstances? How can you rejoice when life seems to be working against you?
  
2. Henrietta Mears said, *“A teacher hasn’t taught until a student has learned!”* Why is it important for Paul, or any teacher for that matter to repeat themselves (**vs. 1**)? Why is it important for us to spend time in God’s Word daily and constantly review what we’ve learned?
  
3. Why were dogs considered scavengers in biblical times (**vs. 2**)? (**See 1 Kin. 21:23-24**) How does the imagery of these wild dogs looking for anything to devour relate to the false teachers invading the church at Philippi? According to verse 2, who were these false teachers? Does this imagery of wild animals relate to false teachers today? If so, how?
  
4. Physical circumcision was the sign of being part of the Old Covenant Jewish community. What is pictured in physical circumcision? What kind of circumcision was God ultimately looking for (**vs. 3**)? (**See Deut 30:6; Rom 2:28-29; Col. 2:12-13**) What is pictured in circumcision of the heart?
  
5. In what way is circumcision of the heart synonymous with regeneration (*being born again*)? (**See Ezek. 36:26-27**) What are the three marks of those circumcised in the Spirit according to **Phil. 3:3**? Why is each mark important?

6. The Judaizers wanted the church to move from salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone to a form of works salvation. How does Paul respond to their challenge of “works spirituality”? **(See vv. 4-6)**
  
7. Why does Paul start out by stating he was “circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day” **(vs. 5)**? **(See Gen. 17:6-14)**. Why is it important for Paul to show that he is of “the stock of Israel”, not the stock of Ishmael, Esau or the Gentiles? **(See Exod. 19:5-7; Deut. 7:6-8)** What was the significance of Paul being from the tribe of Benjamin”? **(See 1 Sam. 9:1,2; 2 Chron. 15:1-4)**. What King of Israel had Paul been named after? **(See Acts 7:58)**
  
8. As a “Hebrew of Hebrews” Paul, formerly named Saul, was raised in the Hebrew tradition speaking the Hebrew language and living the Hebrew life. Is there any added significance in Paul being a “Pharisee”? If so, why? **(See Acts 22:3; 23:6; 26:5)** How “religious” would Paul have been? **(See Matt. 23:1-36)**
  
9. According to the book of Acts, how severely did Paul (*then the Pharisee Saul*) persecute the Christian church **(vs. 6)**? **(See Acts 7:54-60; 8:1-3; 22:4-5)** How zealous was Saul in regards to salvation by works prior to his conversion **(vs. 6)**? What event happened to change his life forever? **(See Acts 9:1-22; Eph. 2:8)** What happened to change your life forever?

**Part II: Counting all things a loss compared to the greatness of knowing Christ.  
(Phil. 3:7-9)**

1. After coming to Christ, how did Paul feel about his sevenfold list of “religious” qualifications **(vs. 7)**? **(Also see vv. 4-6)**
  
2. Paul as a Jewish leader would have suffered greatly for coming to Christ including the loss of family, friends, and the respect of the Jewish community. He most likely suffered financial loss for his faith and put his very life on the line. According to verse 8, how did Paul feel about the loss of everything he had in comparison to greatness of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord? Is there anything in your life that you are not willing to give up for Jesus? If so, why? **(See Luke 9:23-26)**

3. For years Paul had sought to earn his own righteousness through following the Law only to discover the futility of it all (**vs. 9**). The word “imputed” is a banking term meaning, “*To apply to another’s account.*” A double imputation occurred at the moment of your salvation, first your sin and guilt were transferred to Christ on the cross, charged to His account where He paid your debt in full. God’s justice is satisfied. (**Rom. 3:19-26**) That alone wouldn’t be enough to save us, a second imputation had to occur. What was the second imputation? (**See Rom. 3:21-22; 2 Cor. 5:21**) Hint: See “Miner’s Corner”.

### **Part III: Paul’s desire to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. (Phil. 3:10-11)**

1. Is Paul stating his desire in verse 10 merely to receive more “head knowledge” about Jesus, or is he expressing his longing to develop a more intimate personal relationship with Christ? Is there anything in your life that is keeping you from an intimate walk with Jesus? If so, why? What are some practical steps you can take to know Jesus more deeply and more intimately?
2. How can the power that raised Jesus from the dead also help you in your everyday Christian life today (**vs. 10**)? Did Paul have a specific call on his life to suffer? If so, why? (**See Acts 9:15,16; 8:1-3; 22:4-5**) Are there times in our own lives when we are called to suffer for Christ? Why? (**See 1 Pet. 2:20-22**) What attitude do you face suffering with?
3. Why was Paul so willing to give up his own life to reach others for Christ (**vs. 10**)? Are you willing to give up your life if it means that others will be saved? Does **verse 11** indicate that Paul was doubting that he would be resurrected or do you think he was expressing his desire to experience the resurrection soon?
4. The Amplified version of the Bible translates **Phil. 3:10**, “*For my determined purpose is that I may know Him – 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.*” Is this the prayer of your heart today? If not, why? Will you commit to making time with Christ the number one priority in your life? Why not start today?

### **MINER'S CORNER - *Manna to live by!***

- There is a big difference between happiness and rejoicing. Happiness depends on your circumstances, rejoicing rests on your position in Christ – *“You win!”*
- Everything in life is as rubbish compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ.
- Imputation is a banking term meaning, *“To apply to another’s account”*. A “double imputation” took place at the moment of your salvation:
  - 1) Your sin and your guilt were transferred to Christ on the cross, charged to His account where He paid your debt in full. God’s justice is satisfied. **(Rom. 3:19-26)**
  - 2) Christ’s righteousness is transferred our account by faith so that when God sees us, He sees us in the righteousness of Christ! We are forgiven and saved!
- Our determined purpose in this life should be to know Christ and to *“progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him”*. **(Phil. 4:10 – Amplified)**