

That We Might Know Christ

Phil 3:7-11 - *But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 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, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.* NIV

1. THERE IS NO FUTURE IN THE PAST

Phil 3:2-6 - *Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh- 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.* NIV

2. THE FUTURE LIES WITH THE PRESENT – KNOWING CHRIST

- While Christ did not consider God-likeness to add to his advantage, but “*made Himself nothing*” so Paul now considers his former “*gain*” as “*loss*” for the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.
- As Christ was “*found*” in “*human likeness*” Paul is now “*found in Christ*” knowing what it means to be conformed to His death.
- As Christ’s humiliation was followed by God’s “*glorious*” vindication of Him, so present “*suffering*” for Christ’s sake will be followed by “*glory*” in the form of resurrection.
- And as He was “*raised*” and “*exalted*” to the highest place, so Paul and the Philippian believers, because they are now “*conformed to Christ*” in his death, will also be “*conformed*” in His glory.

3. THE FUTURE LIES WITH THE FUTURE – ATTAINING CHRIST

Phil 3:12-14 - *Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.* NIV