

# That I May Know Him

## Phillipians 3

Text: Phil 3:10

Philip. 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Introduction:

The object of the apostle' life-that for which he sacrificed everything: country, kindred, honor, comfort, liberty, and life itself, was, that he might know Christ.

This prayer was prayed not for salvation, but after Paul had trusted Christ as his Saviour.

This is the desire of one who has been saved, who enjoys the full conviction that his sins are pardoned, and that he is in Christ.

A moment' reflection will remove your astonishment. Imagine for a moment that you are living in the age of the Roman emperors. You have been captured by Roman soldiers and dragged from your native country; you have been sold for a slave, stripped, whipped, branded, imprisoned, and treated with shameful cruelty. At last you are appointed to die in the amphitheater, to make sport for a tyrant. The large assemble with

delight. There they are, tens of thousands of them, gazing down from the sides of the huge Coliseum. You stand alone, and naked, armed only with a single dagger-a poor defense against gigantic beasts.

A huge loud door is drawn up by machinery, and there rushes the monarch of the forest-a huge lion; you must slay him or be torn to pieces. You are absolutely certain that the conflict is too stern for you, and that the sure result must and will be that those terrible teeth will grind your bones and drip with your blood. You tremble; your joints are loosed; you are paralyzed with fear, like the timid deer when the lion has dashed it to the ground.

But what is this? - a deliverer appears. A great unknown jumps from among the gazing multitude, and confronts the savage monster. He's not frightened by the roaring of the devourer, but runs upon him with terrible fury, till, like a whipped cub, the lion slinks towards his den, dragging himself along in pain and fear.

The hero lifts you up, smiles into your bloodless face, whispers comfort in your ear, and bids you be of good courage, for you are free. Do you not think that there would arise at once in your heart a desire to know your deliverer?

As the guards conducted you into the open street, and you breathed the cool, fresh air, would not the first question be, "was my deliverer, that I may fall at his feet and bless him?" You are not, however, informed,

but instead of it you are gently led away to a noble mansion house, where your many wounds are washed and healed with salve of rarest power. You are clothed in sumptuous apparel; you are made to sit down at a feast; you eat and are satisfied; you rest upon the softest down.

The next morning you are attended by servants who guard you from evil and minister to your good. Day after day, week after week, your wants are supplied. You live like a king. There is nothing that you can ask which you do not receive.

I am sure that your curiosity would grow more and more intense till it would ripen into an insatiable craving. You would scarcely neglect an opportunity of asking the servants, “Why is this happening to me who does all this, who is my noble benefactor, for I must know him?” “but” they say, “it not enough for you that you are delivered from the Lion?”

“It is for that very reason that I want to know him.”

It is because Christ loved me and gave himself for me that I want to know him; it is because he has shed his blood for me that I may be one with him for ever, that my soul desires a fuller acquaintance with him.”

## 1. The Distant Worshippers

I do not mean the ungodly and profane; I mean children of God.

- Many know about His historic life.
- Some know about His doctrine.
- Others know about His character.
- Some know about His sacrifice.
- Some have an interest in Him.
  - A. Many have heard and read about Christ and that's enough for them.
  - B. Paul did not say that “I have heard of Him on whom I have believed,” but rather I know who I have believed.

### **2 Tim. 1:12**

For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

## 2. The Desirous Worshipers

- A. We know a person when we recognize him.

I recognize the president as I'm sure most of you do. In order to know someone you must recognize them, but that in comparison is a small part of knowing someone.

B. We know a person when we have experienced things with them.

Someone may say Do you know Dr. so and so? Some will say yes I have heard of him, or even possibly seen him, but those who know him best are those he has served as patients.

C. We know a man in a better sense when we are on speaking terms with them.

Again we may have heard of someone, or even had dealings with someone, but we know an individual better when we speak to them daily.

D. We would know a person even better when he invites you to his house.

We may be invited to an individuals house and certainly we would know each other more so than those who have only heard of our acquaintance but I have known husbands and wives who have lived with one another and still didn't really know one another.

### **John 14:9**

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?

### 3. The Description of this Worship

May we see clearly today what this knowledge is this morning.

A. We must know His personality personally.

1. He loves every person.

2. He desires for every person to be saved.

- We cannot personally know His personality through someone else.

B. We must know Him intelligently.

1. I must know His natures.

2. I must know His offices.

3. I must know His attributes.

4. I must know His works.

5. I must know His shame.

6. I must know His glory.

#### **Ephes. 3:17-19**

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup>May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

<sup>19</sup>And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

C. When we get to really knowing Him, it leads us still to know even more about Him.

Close:

Do you know Him?

Do you have a desire to know more about Him?

Is that desire such as the Psalmist said?

**Psalm 42:1**

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

May that be so with each of us today.