

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM  
PHIL. 3:10-14

Introduction:

- A. Paul's theology is a "Jesus Theology."
    - 1. He desires to, be "found in Him." v9
    - 2. And to "possess His righteousness."
  
  - B. Paul knows that "Jesus Theology" involves much more than salvation.
    - 1. "that I may know Him."
    - 2. "I long to know Christ."
    - 3. Know = a personal and true relationship between the person knowing and the object known. To be influenced by one's knowledge of the object known; it is the opposite of Matt. 7:21-23.
    - 4. Paul wants to have such a knowledge of Jesus that it will be life changing.
  
  - C. There are some who want Christ to know them.
    - 1. They want Him to see what they do.
    - 2. Paul wanted to Know Christ.
  
  - D. There are some who want Christians to know them.
    - 1. To be seen in church.
    - 2. To be heard in church.
- I. PAUL WANTED TO KNOW THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION.
- A. "and the power of his resurrection." v10
    - 1. power = capability, inherent power.
    - 2. "the power by which He came again from the dead."
  
  - B. Paul wants experimental knowledge of the power in Christ's resurrection.
    - 1. He can use this in his life.
    - 2. Such knowledge of such power can strengthen us!

## II. PAUL WANTED TO SHARE IN CHRIST'S SUFFERING.

- A. "and the fellowship of his suffering."
  - 1. fellowship = act of partaking, sharing.
  - 2. suffering = what is suffered, evil suffered.
  - 3. Paul is not thinking of slavery, but of entering into His suffering, and have sympathy and empathy, as he drinks from that cup from which Christ drank.
  - 4. II Cor. 4:10 ; I Peter 4:13.
  
- B. He wanted to experience the suffering of Christ.
  - 1. This knowledge would change him.
  - 2. Help him to bear all things, as Christ bore them.
  
- C. Watch a person suffer, we feel it.

## III. PAUL WANTED TO SHARE IN CHRIST'S DEATH.

- A. "being made conformable unto His death."
  - 1. conformable = to make like, of like form with another person.
  - 2. "sharing the likeness of His death."
  
- b. Paul wanted to share the knowledge of Christ's death, to really feel it, to experience it.
  - 1. This knowledge would change him.
  - 2. If he could know Christ Jesus so intimately as to actually share His feelings in death, it would change him.
  
- C. Let us look at Paul's life.
  - 1. "I have been crucified with Christ." Gal. 2:20.
  - 2. "baptized unto his death." Rom. 6:3.
  - 3. He suffers when Christ suffers. He dies when Christ dies. He lives when Christ lives.

IV. PAUL WANTED TO EXPERIENCE RESURRECTION AS CHRIST  
EXPERIENCED IT. V11

- A. "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."
  - 1. Paul is thinking here of the glorious resurrection of the pious dead, He does not deny that all men will be raised from the dead, but states his aim to be in the "earlier resurrection."
  - 2. He longs to be in "the first resurrection."
  - 3. "the resurrection that lifts me out from among the dead."
  
- B. There will be a resurrection of the dead, the small and great shall stand before Him.
  - 1. The first resurrection is for the ones who know Him.
  - 2. "The rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years were finished."

V. HAD PAUL ATTAINED HIS GOAL? V12-14

- A. Paul had not attained.
  - 1. "Not as though I had already attained."
  - 2. attained = to take, to take hold of.
  
- B. The end had not come, he had things to do.
  - 1. "either were already perfect."
  - 2. perfect = to complete, to bring to a final consumation."
  - 3. "I have not reached perfection" (in these things).

VI. PAUL HAD NOT QUIT TRYING TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL OF  
KNOWING CHRIST.

- A. "but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."
  - 1. apprehend = to seize upon, to hold down, keep under, catch, overtake.

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2. "I haven't caught it, but I'm running after it. The goal is attainable, it is not the gold at the end of the rainbow, no will-o-the-wisp-in-a-bag."
  3. Christ seized him and now Paul will seize Christ and know Him as Christ knew Paul on the Damascus Road!
- B. "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended"
1. "I don't have it in my hand."
  2. It is still attainable, it is not too late.
- C. "but this one thing I do."
1. "but here is my one aspiration."
  2. A dog jumps a deer, changes to a rabbit, to a squirrel, and ends the day barking in a rathole.
- D. "forgetting those things which are behind."
1. "forgetting what lies behind,"
  2. Paul is not ashamed of his past career but his past achievements do not contain his goal.
- e. "I press toward the mark."
1. The expression comes from the arena.
  2. The stretching of the runner.
- F. "for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."
1. Prize = a prize bestowed on the victors in the public games of the Greeks, such as a wreath.
  2. "for the prize to which God, through Christ Jesus, calls us upward."

## VII. DID PAUL REACH THIS GOAL?

- A. II Timothy 4:6-8.