

Topic: Looking forward to know Christ

Scripture text : Philippians 3:10-14

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**LOOKING
FORWARD
PRESSING ON
PHILIPPIANS 3 : 13 - 14**

Watch video:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/CXf2iMNd0J4>

Question:

Do we have an intimate knowledge of Christ our Lord?



Paul was imprisoned in Rome in 62 AD when he wrote the letter to the Philippians

Philippians 3:10-12	Meaning
<p data-bbox="137 172 825 301"><i>10 That I may know him, and</i></p> <p data-bbox="137 651 614 779"><i>the power of his resurrection, and</i></p> <p data-bbox="137 993 690 1122"><i>the fellowship of his sufferings,</i></p>	<p data-bbox="907 172 2397 536">10 Experiential Knowledge ("That I may know Him"): * <i>Matthew Henry</i> notes that this isn't "head knowledge" but "experiential knowledge." It is the difference between knowing facts about a person and being their <u>intimate friend</u>.</p> <p data-bbox="907 608 2397 893"><i>MacArthur</i> and others explain that Paul isn't just looking forward to a future resurrection; he wants the current power that raised Jesus to be active in his own mortal body <u>to overcome sin</u>.</p> <p data-bbox="907 972 2397 1336">The <i>Precept Austin</i> commentary emphasizes that "fellowship" (koinōnia) means a "partnership." Paul is saying that when we suffer for the sake of the Gospel or through the trials of life, we are not alone; we are <u>sharing in the very experiences Christ had</u>.</p>

Philippians 3:10-12	Meaning
<p data-bbox="137 197 728 408"><i>10 <u>being made conformable unto his death;</u></i></p> <p data-bbox="137 511 825 722"><i>11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.</i></p>	<p data-bbox="909 197 2239 325">10 “conformable to His death”— becoming like Christ in His death.</p> <p data-bbox="909 511 2079 639">11 Paul wants to attain the experience of resurrection of the dead.</p> <p data-bbox="909 736 2384 951">Commentaries like Barnes' Notes suggest this is the "final triumph"—the ultimate goal where the body is glorified and the <u>struggle with sin is over.</u></p>

Philippians 3:10-12	Meaning
<p data-bbox="137 197 866 706"><i>12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.</i></p> <p data-bbox="137 892 828 1328"><i>13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, <u>forgetting those things which are behind, and</u></i></p>	<p data-bbox="907 197 2395 406"><i>12 The Admission of Imperfection (v. 12): "Not that I have already obtained all this..." Paul will continue to work at being what Christ wants him to be.</i></p> <p data-bbox="907 482 2318 763"><i>Matthew Henry</i> observes that a "sanctified dissatisfaction" with one's current spiritual state is <u>essential for growth</u>. If we think we are perfect, we stop running.</p> <p data-bbox="907 842 2318 978"><i>13 The Single-Minded Strategy (v. 13): "Forgetting what is behind..."</i></p> <p data-bbox="907 1056 2382 1263">a refusal to let the past—whether its failures (like Paul's persecution of the church) or its successes (his religious pedigree)—distract or weigh him down.</p>

Philippians 3:13-14	Meaning
<p><i>reaching forth unto those things which are before,</i></p> <p><i>14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.</i></p>	<p>It describes a runner with his body bent forward, hand outstretched toward the finish line, eyes fixed only on the goal.</p> <p>14 Paul would press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.</p>

The suffering of Paul in 2 Cor 11:23-27:

23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Philippians 3:10-12

10 That I may know him,



<https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1001072098>

What we should do

"That I may know Him" (The Goal: Intimacy)

In Greek, this is *ginōskō*, a word for experiential, relational knowledge—the way a husband knows a wife in the character, temperament and values.

Application: After reading a passage of scripture, ask ourselves, "What is God telling me to do in my present situation?"

Example,

“Love your wife”

“Be strong and courageous”

“Wait upon the Lord”, etc...

Philippians 3:10

and the power of his resurrection, and



<https://thehusbandsclub.com/how-to-love-like-christ-loved-the-church/>

What we should do

We often try to break bad habits or forgive people through "willpower."

Paul suggests we need "Resurrection Power."

Application: When faced with a temptation or a difficult person, pray: "Lord, I don't have the power to be patient right now. Let the power that raised Jesus from the dead work in me to respond like Him."

Philippians 3:10

What we should do

*the fellowship of
his sufferings,*

When we go through hard times, our first instinct is to ask, "Why me?" or "How do I get out of this?"

Application: Ask, "Lord, how can this trouble help me understand Your will better?" Sharing in His sufferings often makes us more compassionate, less arrogant, and more dependent on God.

*being made
conformable unto
his death;*

To be "conformed to His death" means a daily surrender.

Application: Identify one area of "self" (pride, the need to be right, a secret sin) that needs to die today. Surrendering that area is the only way to experience the "mini-resurrection" of a new, God-given peace in its place.

Surrendering means ask God for forgiveness and not do it again.

Philippians 3: 12, 13

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

What we should do

Don't settle for "good enough" in your relationship with God. If Paul hadn't arrived, we certainly haven't either.

Application: End your day not just by counting your achievements, but by asking, "Lord, what is the next area of my heart You want to take hold of?"

The "weights" that slow us down are often past shames or past "glory days."

Application: When the enemy reminds you of a past sin that God has already forgiven, or when you are tempted to rely on a "spiritual victory" from five years ago, consciously say: "I forget what is behind. That is not who I am today. I am moving forward in Christ."

Philippians 3: 14	What we should do
<p>14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.</p>	<p>You aren't running to earn God's love; you are running because He already "took hold" of you.</p> <p><u>Application:</u> When the race feels exhausting, remind yourself: "I am not running to get to Christ; I am running because Christ has already grabbed me and won't let go."</p>

(3) v14: ¹⁴ I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

- We must finish the Christian race. Do not be distracted by worldly pleasures and temptations.
- This is a long distance race. Begin and end well!
- At the end of the race, we will get our prize of eternal life.

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