

More Like Christ

KJV Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

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

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

The apostle Paul wanted to gain as much knowledge about Christ as possible.

Paul came to realize his Jewishness, his religiousness, and pedigree had nothing to do with his knowledge of God.

Philippians 3:5 I was circumcised on the eighth day. I'm a descendant of Israel. I'm from the tribe of Benjamin. I'm a pure-blooded Hebrew. When it comes to living up to standards, I was a Pharisee.

6 When it comes to being enthusiastic, I was a persecutor of the church. When it comes to winning God's approval by keeping Jewish laws, I was perfect.

7 These things that I once considered valuable, I now consider worthless for Christ.

Paul said none of the things I studied, trained, and learn to do enthusiastically, sincerely, and faithfully brought me closer to Christ!

Like Paul there are some wonderful people who are serious, committed, and enthusiastic about God who don't really know Him.

Romans 10:1 Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Jewish people is that they would be saved.

2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Paul says his Jewish brothers and sisters believe they are **right** with God and are not! They think what they know about God is enough!

Paul did not say they didn't know God he just said they didn't know enough about God to be saved!

Or what they know about God is **misunderstood or misinterpreted!**

It's possible to have information without revelation!

Paul realized this when his own knowledge and zeal for God was met by the power of God on the Damascus Road.

Acts 9:3 As Saul was coming near the city of Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him.

The first thing Saul/Paul experiences is a **light from heaven** shining around him.

Paul telling his testimony to king Agrippa said...

Acts 26:13 At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

14 All of us fell to the ground, and I heard a voice asking me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul! Why are you persecuting me? It's hard for a mortal like you to resist God.'

Paul said it was noon, when the sun is at its highest point above, yet this light was **brighter** than the sun.

This light was Jesus!

Jesus was speaking to Paul in The Hebrew language so Paul would know He was Jehovah, the same God he knew.

Jesus then said his name twice, Saul, Saul; by two or three witnesses every word is confirmed.

Jesus knows who I am! Saul why are you persecuting me? The good people you are rounding up torturing and killing are not just good people it is My Church, My Body, and they are Me!

Paul had a zeal that was **not** based on **revelation knowledge!**

Jesus had to interrupt Paul's life **supernaturally** before Paul could really know Jesus!

Acts 26:15 And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.'

Paul respectfully asked who was speaking to him because he didn't know Jesus, he knew the OT scriptures, he knew tradition, he knew how to practice his religion, but he didn't know Jesus!

So, 26 years after Paul's first encounter with Jesus on the Damascus road he writes Philippians 3:10!

7 years before he wrote Philippians 3:10 Paul wrote 2 Cor 12:2!

2 Corinthians 12:2 I know a follower of Christ who was snatched away to the third heaven fourteen years ago. I don't know whether this happened to him physically or spiritually. Only God knows.

3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise-- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5 I'll brag about this person, but I won't brag about myself unless it's about my weaknesses.

6 If I ever wanted to brag, I wouldn't be a fool. Instead, I would be telling the truth. But I'm going to spare you so that no one may think more of me than what he sees or hears about me,

Paul says if I brag about the supernatural experiences I've had it would only cause you to focus more attention on me.

These supernatural experiences were awesome, but they weren't what helped me learn more about Christ, they didn't provide me personal knowledge about Christ!

I'm telling you **26 years** after first meeting Christ, **7 years** after being caught up into heaven, I want to really know Christ!

In the **power** of His resurrection, the fellowship of His sufferings and what it means to die daily as He died.

You see Jesus **not** only died for our sins, He also died because He was **The Truth!**

My prayer for The Church is that we would get the revelation of what it means to die daily and experience the power of being resurrected into a new life daily!

Everything that dies and is resurrected comes back in a better more powerful state than before!

Rom 8:11 *But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

Rom 6:9 *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

As we gain revelation of the resurrection, we lose all fear of death!

2 Cor 13:4 *For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.*

Rom 6:4 *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*