

Philippians 3 – What’s Really Important

In *Philippians 3*, Paul has given a listing of his credentials—all of the things he had lived for as a young man. However, after having met Jesus on the road to Damascus, his priorities changed. None of those things was important to him. In Philippians 3:7-11, Paul tells us this:

“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 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 on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.”

From this passage, it seems as if Paul had only three things that were important to him:

1. He wanted to KNOW Christ
2. He wanted to be found in Him
3. He wanted to be resurrected with Christ

Obviously, all of these aspirations fit together to accomplish the one common goal that he mentions in **Philippians 3:14**: ***“to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”***

In order to reach that goal, we must first KNOW Christ. It can’t be an “Oh, yes, I am acquainted with who Jesus is.” We must spend our lives in order to know all we can about Him and what He requires of us. This directly refutes what the false teachers of the time were teaching. Their “special knowledge” of God and His plan for mankind was not necessary. Hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ and paying attention to the additional information preached and written by those inspired by the Holy Spirit were (and are) all that we need to know. Complete knowledge takes a lifetime, and we need to live our lives doing just that. Knowledge, followed by action, are the hallmarks of a Christian.

Paul warned Titus in **Titus 1** about false teaching. They are to be ***“silenced”*** and ***“rebuked sharply.”*** He says they ***“reject the truth”*** and that their ***“minds and consciences are corrupted.”*** In **verse 16**, Paul says ***“They claim to KNOW God, but by their actions they deny Him.”*** If one truly KNOWS God, his actions will prove it.

John says in **1 John 2:3-6**:

“We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete

in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

If we KNOW HIM, we are IN HIM, and we SHOW HIM to the world. In Him, according to **Ephesians 1**, we have ***“spiritual blessings”*** (verse 3), we were ***“chosen”*** (verses 4 and 11), we have ***“redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin”*** (verse 7), and we are ***“marked in Him with a seal”*** (verse 13) – God’s Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a deposit that guarantees our eternal salvation, which was Paul’s (and our) final objective.

Strive to know Jesus Christ and live in Him. Our resurrection to eternal life awaits.

---Johnny Stephens