

KNOWING GOD

"IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE"

January 4, 2021

PHILIPPIANS 3:10a KJV – (10a) That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection

Knowing God changes us from the inside out. God feeds "**HUNGRY**" people! What of the great hungry people of scripture was the Apostle Paul. From prison he writes the book of Philippians and in one of his chapters he says "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice. His circumstances were not joyful. His situation isn't pleasing. He's not in the best scenario. He's financially struggling. One of the reasons why Paul wrote Philippians was to thank them for supporting his ministry—not just in prayer, but with a financial gift. He specifically mentions their gift towards the end of his letter, in **Philippians 4:15–18**. He's struggling with being alone. Nobody to keep him company while in jail. He's burden on how the other Christians are doing at the church of Philippi. He's got all these negative things going on in his life and yet he writes, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice. His circumstances, although negative, were not controlling his well-being. Paul isn't interested in anything else but knowing God. Christ is your direct route to knowing God. Or in everyday terms, He's our short cut. Religion is the long way route and a matter of fact, it will never get you to your destination. Paul found in Jesus Christ a treasure more valuable than any other thing humanity could ever achieve. That's why he says in verse (9), I want to 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.

In **Philippians 3:10**, Paul says, "**That I may know him**, and **the power** of his resurrection. In other words, Paul doesn't want anything of his own doing, but faith only in the true and living God. Through faith! Many of us today are trying to live the Christian life like a lion tamer with a whip. We are trying to whip ourselves into shape. We're trying to force our souls to be what our souls won't cooperate with. We know we should be better in this area or this area and therefore, we try to whip ourselves into shape and make ourselves be better, Holy, pure, righteous and we just keep trying to make it happen. Paul makes it clear he doesn't want to wear those clothes or live that life! The bible describes self-righteousness as a type of attire. Self-righteousness is righteousness that many put on today. It's us dressing ourselves. When Jesus Christ came into our lives, the Holy Spirit was deposited into our souls. It is the perfect righteousness of Christ that has been deposited into every believer. Every believer has it in seed form. It is the growth of that seed in the soul that produces Christ righteousness. Self-righteousness is externally imitative. Christ righteousness is internally imitative. Imitative of who? Jesus Christ. Self-righteousness is when we go to our closets and put on out or put on our holy clothes or our holy look (make up, etc.). Paul is saying that he will not accept nothing else but Christ growing on his insides. If Christ is expanding in my insides that will take over my soul and my soul tells my body what to do. How do we get what Paul is talking about? Paul's answer is, "By knowing Him!" That personal, internal relationship.

Paul is saying in verse (10), I want to know Him! I want to pursue Him! That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection! In other words, I want to experience the "Supernatural." So you ask, how do I get to know Him like this? The Apostle James tells us in detail in **James 4:7-10 NKJV – (7)** Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. (8) Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. (9) Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. (10) Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

SCRIPTURE READING: HOSEA 2:19

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Christianity is not about bad people becoming good but dead people coming alive.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"