

JCI #181 February 2017
Philippians 3:12 Pressing On #2

In our second study in Philippians 3:12 we move from *Putting the Past in the Past* and on to *Possessing the Person*.

Phil 3:4-14 If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law,^[a]blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found **in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may **know him** and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming **like him** in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

The Person 3:1-9 Putting the Past in the Past so that I may Possess the Person

The Spirit of God gave Paul a clear understanding of his own sinfulness, guilt, blame and unrighteousness. This was absolutely essential so that he might see and understand his desperate need of Jesus Christ.

First it was pride. *I define me!* That's where we all begin! I, me, mine!

Then it was shame. *Sin defines me!* When brought under Spirit-given conviction we see ourselves as we are, sinners without excuse, without exception, without escape!

Then it was faith! *Christ defines me!* Then, as the Spirit reveals Christ to our hearts, we turn from our sin to Christ and find in Him all we need, desire and long for! I am His!

THE PERSON - Knowing Christ More Fully

ACTS 22:14-15 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well-spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you **to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;** ¹⁵for you will **be a witness** for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

From that moment on, Paul put his past in the past and began the glorious pursuit of knowing Christ as his Savior, Lord, King, Righteousness, Peace, Life and all!

It is only in knowing ourselves as sinners that we can know Christ as Savior. Conviction leads to repentance that leads to faith. All are vitally connected. None happens apart from the others. And all are the result of a new birth through the gospel! 1 Peter 1:23 John 1:12-13 Ephesians 2:1-12

To know His will, see His face, hear His voice, be His witness....

To Know Him – the One I am pursuing 3:10-11

John 17:1-2 ***We know Him as our Savior, but we need to know Him as our everything!***

Our Righteousness – Phil 3:9

Our Wisdom, Holiness, Freedom – 1 Cor 1:29-30

Our Peace Eph 2:14

Our Cornerstone Eph 2:20

Our Hope Col 1:27

Our Life Col 3:4

He is not the means to a better life, He is our life!

He is not the way to get what we're after, He is what we're after!

Our Joy, Satisfaction, Contentment, Passion, Purpose, Comfort, Confidence, Goal, Love... our everything.

The Devil would have us see Christ as the means to get something else!

The Devil delights in making Christ *the means* to some false god we are truly after with selfish hearts aflame with coveteousness.

The Devil would tell us that...

“Christ is the means to a better life now”

“Christ is the means to helping you get rich”

“Christ is the means to making you healthy”

“Christ is the means to having a better marriage” “

“Christ is the means to making you feel better about yourself.”

Let us never confuse the real gospel with the false one. Christ is not the means, He is all!

When Paul was saved, Christ made it plain that his life would now go from praise to persecution, from respect to hate, from prosperity to poverty, from ease to pain, from power to prison, from gain to loss, ... and everything he lost he said was dung compared to knowing Christ!

KNOWING THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

To know His power – living a new kind of life now – a risen life – with new desires and new power over temptation Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ, yet I live... yet not I, but Christ lives in me!

KNOWING THE FELLOWSHIP IN HIS SUFFERINGS

To Share in His suffering – sharing in willing suffering for the sake of others

A kind of intimacy and bond with Christ that remains unknown apart from shared suffering for Him

KNOWING THE FULL SURRENDER TO THE CROSS

To Imitate His surrender – like Him in His death – fully yielded with grace

Phil 2:5-11 shows this full surrender that we are called to follow after

A yielded, satisfied, daily cross-bearing, daily dying surrendered life

KNOWING THE FULL VICTORY IN THE RESURRECTION

To Participate in His victory – resurrection – we are called to live today for that day

The prize yet ahead – the finish is not complete until our resurrection is obtained

The end of our race is the start of unending delight in His presence

By whatever means – however it comes – through whatever end He chooses

Both Peter and Paul were pre-informed of the suffering that was coming as they followed Christ.

Peter - John 21:18-19 “by what death he would glorify God”

Paul – Acts 9:16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

We will never cease the glorious pursuit of knowing Christ more and better every day!

Self-Check

- 1) Can you describe a time when you were trying to use Christ for something you wanted more than Him?
- 2) Describe some of the ways you are coming to know Christ more this last year?
- 3) How do you practically pursue knowing Christ better and more fully?

For Further Study:

List the names and offices of Christ and all He is to you in Colossians 1, Hebrews 1 &2, and Revelation 1-5.

“Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, forgive me for being satisfied with lesser things and seeking to use you to obtain the idols of my heart. Show me my desperate need of You once again, for I need You as much today as I did the day before You saved me! You are the answer to every need, every desire, every longing of my heart. May your Spirit lead me into the knowing that Paul spoke of – knowing You in the power of Your resurrection, sharing in Your sufferings, becoming like You in Your death. I want to know You are you are. Show me Your glory that I may reflect Your likeness to a world that is lost without You. I pray in Your glorious, saving, satisfying Name, Amen.”

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4 Ron& Val

Seeing The Invisible,
embracing The Unapproachable,
declaring The Unexplainable,
changed by The Immutable,
running after The Irresistible
with inexhaustible joy
in our inexpressible sorrows,
spending our time on eternity,
owning nothing yet possessing everything
that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY