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That I May Know Him; Phil 3:8-11  
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Introduction – In vv1-7, Paul is warning the church not to be taken by a false gospel – in particular the popularized teaching of the day that one must believe in Christ and be circumcised in order to be right with God. Paul is urging them to reaffirm the sufficiency of Christ to save. Christ + anything is a false gospel. Paul writes we glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh. Jesus brings everything to the table of salvation. We bring nothing except our need of it. Then Paul lists 7 of his own spiritual credentials that should have made him right with God – IF – one could be made right with God by his own doing. But that's the point – we can't. So Paul concludes this part of his argument in v7 with whatever gain I had – whatever credentials I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. The point – just cling to Christ – He's all you need.

Now in v8 Paul slightly changes his message from arguing against a false gospel to giving his testimony of the sufficiency and worth of Christ in his own life. In other words, Paul is saying I can testify to what I'm telling you. Christ is enough. Christ is sufficient. And I believe Paul's testimony here reaches its climax when he writes in v10 – that I may know Him. All that I believe and all that I have done is for this one sole purpose that governs every aspect of my life – that I may know Him.

This is beyond the knowing of Christ in the sense of salvation. When we come to Christ by repenting of our sin and embracing Him as Savior and Lord, we then know Jesus and He knows us. But this is something more. This is something even more precious. Paul is speaking here of the sweet fellowship and intimate friendship of close communion with Christ. I don't just want to Him in the new birth, new life, promise of heaven sense – I want to know Him in the depth of personal relationship with Him. I want to know Him. I want to walk with Him, converse with Him, experience life with Him. I want to confide in Him. I want to hear and learn from Him. I want to get to know Him.

You know it's said of married couples, after you live with someone for so long, you get to know each other. You can anticipate one another's actions. You can sense when something is not right. You can finish one another's sentences. Why even some couples begin to look like one another. You know why? Because

you've spent a lifetime together, walking through life's ups and downs, learning each other's ways. Did you know we can grow even closer than that, in a real way, with the Savior who lives within us and never leaves us? We can know Him in a personal, intimate, living relationship. May Paul's life ambition be our own – that I may know Him.

I. The Worth of Knowing Him (v8)

- a. Paul says I have this list of spiritual credentials, and my list is better than yours. And I have this other list with everything else on it. When Paul says Indeed, I count everything as loss – what does he mean? What's on that list? Beyond spiritual credentials and good deeds that blind us to our need of Christ, what are other things that deceive us into believing we don't need God? Riches. Possessions. Achievements. Accolades. Notoriety. Acceptance and applause of others. Pursuits. Status. Knowledge. Everything that would seek to tell me I don't need Christ, what I have and what I do and what I achieve is enough. I've got my two lists on one side.
- b. On the other side is Christ. Just Christ. Only Christ.
- c. Now there are 3 options before us of what it means to really live.
  - i. You can cling to your spiritual credentials and everything else and forget Christ. Self will tell you, the world will tell you, the enemy will tell you – these are all you need. You don't need Christ.
  - ii. You can try to blend and mix the two. Have a little Jesus, get some fire insurance – yes – but if you want to really live – you need more than Jesus. The religious/spiritual elites and influencers will tell you this.
  - iii. But then there is the third option. It's a radical option the world calls foolish, your friends will call crazy, and your family will think you've lost your mind. It's that Christ is all you need – not only for eternal salvation but for life here and now. Christ tells us this.
    1. Christ says – get rid of everything that stands between you and me, and follow me, and you will have treasure in heaven.
    2. Christ says – if you hunger, I am the Bread of Life. If you thirst, I am the Living Water. If you seek God, I am the

Shepherd. If you long for meaning and hope, I am the resurrection and the life. If you would enter heaven, I am the door. If you yearn to find the answer to life's greatest questions, if you long to be reconciled to God, if you can't find your way – I am the Way, I am the Truth, I am the Life. Come! Come unto me all who are weary, and I will give you rest! Come!

- d. Paul says when you compare the two – your spiritual credentials and everything else with Christ – there is no comparison – knowing Christ is of surpassing worth!
- e. So I take my two lists, and I count them as loss – I count them as rubbish – that I may gain Christ! And what makes Christ of such surpassing worth?

## II. The Faith in Him (v9)

- a. To be righteous means to be right with God. Now to be right with God, you have to be found in Christ. To be found in Christ, you have to believe in Christ, trust in Christ, embrace Christ, treasure Christ – you have to have faith in Christ. Paul says that's the righteousness of God that depends on faith. That righteousness – right standing with God – doesn't come from me – it comes from another!
- b. Paul says I can't be found in Him just having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law. If that's all I have, I'm not in Christ and I'm not righteous before God – I'm not right with God. Let me illustrate it this way.
  - i. If when I stand before God, all I have are my lists – they won't suffice. Because guess what? I also have another list that I carry with me right into the presence of God – my sin! As soon as my list of sins are attached to these other lists, everything on these lists become worthless – they mean nothing. My problem is not so much these lists – my problem is my sin list. So these are worth rubbish. No matter how long they are, they can't make me right with God.
  - ii. But when I look to Christ – and love Him and trust Him – He takes my sin list. When I do away with my lists, He does away with my sin list. And then – and then – He gives me His list – and now I am found in Him.

- c. 2 Cor 5:21 – For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. Only the righteousness of Christ makes me right – righteous – before God! That’s why He is of surpassing worth!
- III. The Life with Him (vv10-11)
- a. And the power of His resurrection. What is the power of His resurrection? It’s unlike any other power on earth. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead – Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus rose from the dead – no one stood outside His tomb and called Him forth. When it was time to resurrect – the lifeless body of Jesus, filled with new life, and He rose. God raised Him. That’s power.
    - i. How do we know the power of His resurrection? We first know it in the new birth. God raises us from being spiritually dead to being alive in Christ. God raises us! Second, we know the power of His resurrection in this life. God sustains us and carries us through every trial, every fire, every hardship by His power. Third, we know the power of His resurrection when on that last day there comes a shout from heaven and our lifeless bodies are filled with new life and we rise. God will raise us!
    - ii. Hey I want to remind you today that the power that will raise you on the day of the Lord already dwells within you right now as a believer!
  - b. Share his sufferings – when we suffer for the gospel, for the sake of our testimony in Christ, when we suffer for being followers of Christ, we become like Him. We take on His character. III. Married couples. The more we suffer for Him, the more we look like Him.
  - c. V11 – whatever I may face in this life on account of my faith in Christ will be worth it all because my sufferings for Christ attest that I will be with Christ in the coming resurrection.
    - i. Vv20-21

Conclusion – the worth of knowing Him – faith in Him – life with Him. That’s what it means to gain Christ – to know Christ.