

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

Knowing Jesus

Lesson Thirty-Three

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Lesson Goal: To assist students to know the meaning of real fellowship with Christ.

Scriptures: Philippians 3:10, 11

For Memory: “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.” Philippians 3:10

Knowing Jesus

Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus. He had a real-life, person to person, connection that day. He was never the same. When he wrote the letter to the church at Philippi, he had known Jesus for many years. He had given up everything and had become a missionary to the world. Yet, even after all of that, he told the Philippians that his great desire was to know Christ and to become like Him.

There was a time in Paul’s life when he had lived by rules. As a Pharisee, he had many, many rules to follow. But now, he had a person to follow. He had lived under the strictness of rules. Now, he had a person, a companion, a friend, and mentor to follow. Notice how personal his ambition really is. He didn’t say “We want to know Christ.” He didn’t say, “You should know Christ.” He said, “I want to know Christ.”

It will help us better understand what Paul is saying here if we understand what the word “know” really means. He used a word that means much more than knowing things *about* someone. This word means having a *personal relationship with and personal experience with another person.* We can know about people who we don’t ever meet. However, to have the kind of knowledge Paul speaks of here, you not only have to meet the person and get to know things about them, but you must experience things together. You must live together. You must know how that person reacts to things. You must know how that person feels about things. You must know that person so well, that there are no secrets at all.

So, Paul doesn’t just want to *know about* Jesus, he wants to *personally know* Jesus. He’s not looking for facts, or what someone else knows about Jesus, he wants to know the Person, Jesus, the Messiah. How does that happen? Paul goes on to tell us some of those things.

First, he says that knowing Jesus means that you know the power of His resurrection. It may be a little hard to understand, but Paul didn’t see the power of Christ’s resurrection to be only that which happened on the Sunday morning after His crucifixion. He believed that the power of the resurrection lives on. It is the power that will go with us through death. It is the Jesus power that is with us in this life, when we trust Him. Jesus will never disappoint us, He brings full satisfaction to our lives.

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Next, Paul says that knowing Jesus is to share in His suffering. Now, we know that we cannot go back in time and hang on a cross with Jesus. However, as we can best understand it, when a Christian suffers, when he or she is hurt for the Christian faith, they suffer with Jesus...they share in what Jesus had to do to provide us with salvation. (I Peter 4:12, 13 Also see: 1:29, 30, and the song Paul sang about Jesus in chapter two.)

Third, to be a Christian like Paul wanted to be, we must become more and more like Jesus, walk with Him every day, live like He lived, and be willing to die as He died. Actually, Jesus told us that we must die to ourselves if we are to live like Him. (Mark 8:34-38) So we experience death to our old selves and life in Jesus...new life like His new resurrected life.

So, Paul is saying that he understands that knowing Jesus will ultimately mean that there is no more of the old Paul. A new Paul will come because of his *knowledge* of Jesus. That is the kind of new life that we all should want.

*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.



Teaching Tips:

1. Don't get "hung up" on explaining the symbolism in these verses...such as "the power of His resurrection." Keep it as simple as you can. Read the Scriptures suggested in the lesson. They will help with things that may not be absolutely clear.
2. Warren Wiersbe said, "No wonder Paul had joy— his life did not depend on the cheap things of the world but on the eternal values found in Christ. Paul looked at the things of earth from Heaven's point of view. People who live for things are never really happy, because they must constantly protect their treasures and worry lest they lose their value. Not so the believer with the spiritual mind; his treasures in Christ can never be stolen and they never lose their value."
3. The resurrection is guarantee of immortality: Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 15:14ff.
4. Songs that emphasize faith, Jesus as our personal Savior, right relationship with God, the resurrection, and giving all we have to Jesus are appropriate.
5. Pray with your students: Thank God for giving you a personal relationship with Him and His Son, Jesus.
6. Paul's other statements on the Christian suffering with Jesus are: II Corinthians 1:5; 4:10, 11; Galatians 6:17; Colossians 1:24. Paul's summary: Galatians 2:20.

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Student Worksheet

For Memory: “I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death.” Philippians 3:10

Knowing Jesus

=Notice how _____ Paul’s ambition really is. He didn’t say “*We* want to know _____.” He didn’t say, “_____ should know Christ.” He said, “_____ want to know Christ.”

=The word “know,” as Paul used it, means having a _____ *relationship with* and *personal* _____ *with* another person.

=First, Paul says that knowing Jesus means that you _____ the _____ of His resurrection.

=Paul says that knowing Jesus is to share in His _____. (See I Peter 4:12, 13 and Philippians 1:29, 30, and the song Paul sang about Jesus in chapter two.)

=To be a Christian like Paul wanted to be, we must become more and more like _____, _____ with Him every day, _____ like He lived, and be willing to _____ as He died.

=So, Paul is saying that he understands that knowing _____ will ultimately mean that there is no more of the old Paul. A _____ Paul will come because of his _____ of Jesus. That is the kind of _____ life that we _____ should want.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer, and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.