



# RESILIENT

# JOY

## A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

### SERMON NOTES KNOWING CHRIST

Philippians 3:1-11

#### Knowing Christ means:

- Our confidence is in **Christ** and nothing else. (v. 3)
- We do not boast or take pride in ourselves or our **accomplishments**. (v. 4-6)
- We understand that all we have, or believe we deserve, is actually **nothing**. (v. 7-8)
- Everything we do should point others to Jesus. (v. 9)
- We need to **experience** the power of the resurrection and share in his sufferings. (v. 10-11)

#### Living for Jesus means:

- Spending time on the **relationship**.
- Finding my **identity** in Christ and letting go of all other identifiers.
- Understanding that who I was **pales** in **comparison** to who I am now.
- Working **out** my salvation as it is worked **into** my heart.



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## WEEK EIGHT DEVOTIONAL

### OVERVIEW OF THE PASSAGE

As he interacts with the Philippian church, Paul is aware of the dangers of false teaching. Among other things, if the Philippians are shaped by legalistic ideas, they will not experience the work of Christ in its fullness. By contrast, he wants to know Christ in a transformational way. This involves experiencing the power of Christ's resurrection and becoming like him in his death. While this approach to life may seem daunting, it is the approach that produces resilient joy.

In this passage, Paul draws on his personal experience to urge the Philippians to trust in the righteousness that is theirs by faith in Christ, that they might enjoy their relationship with God, experience his power in his life, and have the motivation to press on because of the assurance of God's favor.

### FAMILY TALK

*(Use these questions to prompt conversation with your family after the sermon.)*

1. Are there ways you put confidence in yourself versus God himself?
2. What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus?
3. How do you get from knowing about Jesus to knowing Jesus?
4. When Paul says he "considers everything a loss" compared with the worth of knowing Christ, does he mean we shouldn't use our talents and giftedness? What do you think Paul means here?
5. As believers, we must expect to share in the "sufferings" of Jesus. This happens when you experience resistance or criticism for being a believer. Why is it a good thing to receive resistance or criticism for being a believer?
6. Knowing Christ involves experiencing the power of the resurrection. The power of the resurrection separates the real Jesus, and salvation, from all false religions. How can we live in the power of the resurrection?

### GOING DEEPER / PERSONAL DEVOTIONS

*The "Going Deeper" devotional that accompanies the sermon series provides questions for study, reflection, and application. Plan to take several days to answer the questions giving you more time to process and integrate the passage into your life in a more meaningful way.*

#### **Background to the Study:**

View the Bible Project overview on Philippians to get a better idea of the content of the book.  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/philippians/>

Phil. 3:1-11

Read the passage and highlight the words or phrases that impacted you the most. Take time to reflect on those words and ask the Spirit to show you what he is revealing to you from this time in the word.

### **Information Questions:**

1. In the last section Paul called us to “rejoice in the Lord”. His very next thought is to “Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.” How might the influence of these people keep the Philippians from rejoicing in the Lord?
2. What does it mean to “put no confidence in the flesh”? Why do you think Paul gave himself as an example of this? What does Paul put his confidence in now?
3. Look over Paul’s credentials. What “gain” was he deriving from them? Why does he now see them as loss?

### **Reflective Questions**

1. What things are you hesitant to lose or count as rubbish for the sake of Christ? Why? How might this relate to putting confidence in the flesh? How do you see yourself putting confidence in your achievements?
2. What does it mean to be “found in” Christ? How is this related to being righteous?
3. Reflect on the phrase, “I want to know Christ.” How do you know Jesus better now than you did when you first became a disciple? Write, in your own words, what it means “to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death”.

### **Application Questions**

1. How might your life look differently if you were to believe by faith that Christ’s righteousness was enough for you in each moment of life?
2. What steps can you take to prioritize your day to reflect the importance of knowing Christ?
3. Write down the achievements, skills, talents, etc. that are important to you. Offer them to God in a sacrificial remembering that nothing is more important than Christ.



# GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Nick shared points during his sermon about what it means to know Christ. Take time to share personal thoughts about what it means to know Christ.
2. Talk about this phrase, "Losing what this life gives pales in comparison to what I gain in Christ." What did you lose when you started following Christ? What did you gain?
3. Engage this thought, "Do you think most Christians have the same attitude that Paul had when it comes to seeing personal achievements as "garbage"?"
4. How can we experience the power of the resurrection and share in his sufferings?
5. Everything in Paul's life is oriented around knowing and being more like Christ in every possible way. Discuss what it means to re-orient our lives around knowing and being more like Christ in all ways.

**IF YOU HAVE TIME, PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR WORSHIP  
ON JULY 12 BY READING PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21.**