I Want To Know Christ!
Philippians 3:10-11

Objective: Encourage people to seek to know Christ in profound and intimate ways.

Reading: Philippians 3:1-11

Memory: Philippians 3:10-11, “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, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Introduction:
1. Do you have anyone of whom you can say that you really know them? There are lot’s of people that I count as friends and I know a lot about them. I may even know their birthday’s for some of them.
2. But do you really know them in the sense of understanding what makes them “tick”? What choices they will make? How faithful they are? How they will respond in certain situations? Where their loyalties lie, and to what extreme? For you know them by facts or by experience? Is it something they have told you, or something you KNOW because you have lived it and felt it?
3. Really knowing something or someone, is more than an accumulation of facts. Really knowing involves the heart more than the head. This is the knowledge that the Apostle is speaking of that He seeks after in regard to Christ. I agree with him; “I want to know Christ…”

We should desire a deep personal knowledge of Christ. (HOW?)

To know Christ is the passionate goal toward which we ought to set our own lives because Christ is what it’s all about. To gain everything and not have Christ is to have nothing. To loose everything and gain Christ is to have everything! The Apostle Paul gave up status, prestige, wealth, comfort, even family, because he considers that knowing Christ is the one thing of supreme value! It is.

So, how do I come to truly have Christ? I need to earnestly come to know Him with increasing awareness and realization. The Apostle here, lists four avenues of really coming to know Christ.

One way to really relate to Christ, to comprehend and KNOW Him, is…

I. In The Power Of His Resurrection.

A. Grasp the extent of the power that is His!
1. There is incomprehensible power here. Think of the power to speak worlds into existence. Power to keep the planet from falling into the sun. Think of the power of the sun that has been burning since the third day of Creation! All these are a mere pittance compared to the power exhibited in the Resurrection!
2. Friend mentioned quiet running Rolls Royce engine; power and perfection – listen to Creation rune some time and see the perfection!
3. Paul puts it this way: Ephesians 1:18-23; “I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

B. He has real power and will use it for us!
1. incomparably great power for us who believe.
2. Power to overcome sin and death. Life-giving power. To change me from dead to alive.
3. Power to totally defeat Satan! to help you overcome temptations if you are willing.
4. Power that lavished grace upon us. That transferred us out of the realm of darkness and into the kingdom of Light!
5. Power to transform us and make us children of God! Cf.; Philippians 3:20-12, “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21 who, by the **power** that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

6. Transforming power. To change me from a worthless, lost scoundrel, to a child of God.
7. Conquering power. To overcome sin and the effects of sin.
8. Consider the peace, the confidence, the faith you would have if you really knew Christ in this regard; if you really had a grasp of the supremacy of that power of His resurrection!

A second way to really come to know Christ is …

II. In The Fellowship Of His Suffering.
A. What was the nature and reason of His suffering?
1. And, how does it help us to KNOW Him?
2. Remember that Christ’s sufferings were precursor to His glory. In fact He often refers to His suffering as His glory! I need to know why! What is the heart and spirit that led to Christ’s suffering so on our behalf? That is what I want to grasp and understand!
3. He **gladly** endured the cross. How can I get to know Him on such a level that I would **gladly** do the same?!

B. Those who KNOW Christ understand a privilege here.
1. Acts 5:41, “The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.”
2. Acts 9:15-16, “But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”
3. Romans 5:3-4, “Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”
4. 2 Timothy 1:8-9, “So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.”
5. 2 Timothy 2:10, “Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.”
6. 1 Peter 4:12-13, “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”
7. Romans 8:17, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”
8. It enables us to participate, puts us on the team to serve, to grow in love and Christ-likeness!

C. How much of this fellowship are you ready for?
1. What motivates you? Why would you want to join in such suffering? Only if you KNOW Him; His heart, His nature, His reasons.
2. BECAUSE you love somebody, you are willing to share their suffering!
   a. To a sick and dying child; “I wish I could take your place.”
   b. To a spouse of relative; “I would donate a kidney if it would help you…”
   c. I go out in 20 below to start wife’s car! NOT because it is enjoyable, but I am wanting to help and willing to suffer out of love.
3. I may not be inclined to stop by roadside and help just anyone who is “suffering” with a flat tire or being stuck in mud, but if it is someone I know and love, you can bet I’ll stop and share in their “suffering”! Would that I could know Christ in such a way that I am equally eager to pitch in and share in His suffering for His cause!

The third avenue Paul mentions for really getting to know Christ is …

III. In Being Conformed To His Death.
A. What is the nature of His death?
1. Involved a dying to self and a living for God; Matthew 26:39, “Going a little farther, he fell with
his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

a. Knowing Christ has to do with experiencing that same heart and attitude. That same spirit.

b. As we come to KNOW Christ, we will be moved by this same faith and nature.

2. Involved a desire for the world to know His love and commitment to God and to the causes of God; John 14:30-31. “I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.”

a. As we come to KNOW Christ, we will be moved by this same faith and nature.

b. We will want others to know that we love God and keep His commands. No matter what!

3. A purpose. A “cause” to die for! A goal. Do you share the same worthwhile goal?

4. Faith is not intellectual consent to a list of facts; it is living in trust and self-surrender; dying to my fears and desires just like Christ died to His in His trust of God.

B. A dying motivated out of love.

1. 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 4 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 5persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 6 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 7 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. 8 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.”

2. READ Romans 6:4-11. Consider the holiness, the purity, the god-likeness that would be ours if we genuinely knew Him in being so conformed to His death.

The fourth avenue the Apostle suggests in knowing Christ is …

IV. In the hope of attaining the resurrection from the dead.

A. Is it just getting to heaven or is it actually getting to be with Him that you want?

1. Get there and breathe a sigh of relief that we made it – folks; it is so much more than that!

2. It’s not only about our own eternal life, but about life with Him! Or would be if we knew Him!

3. 1 Corinthians 13:12. “Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

4. Have you got questions to be answered? Things to discuss? Things you can’t wait to understand? Sometimes it is just exciting and glorious to be in the Presence of One you love.

B. What are you looking forward to in hope?

1. Missing out on hell and condemnation? Yes, of course.

2. Sitting around playing harps and singing? For me to play a harp might be a great gift, but how long can you enjoy listening to me play even if I’m good?

3. Getting to really know the love and glory of the Creator? YES!!!!

4. Getting to fully abide in His very Presence! YES!!!

5. Being in the very Presence of Glory!! Of Life!! That’s how I ultimately want to know Him!

So What?

Philippians 3:10. “I want to know Christ...”. Nothing else is really important. Nothing else even comes close. Yet you can’t really get to know Him simply by reading or listening. Somehow, some way it’s necessary to experience Him and His attributes in order to really know him. Your life has to engage with His to have such knowledge. Make your life an active participation in Christ so you can really know Him.

Closing Prayer:
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Memory: Philippians 3:10-11

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      Ephesians 1:18-23
   B. He has real power and will use it for us!
      Philippians 3:20-12

II. In The Fellowship Of His Suffering.
   A. What was the nature and reason of His suffering?
      Acts 5:41    Acts 9:15-16
      Romans 5:3-4 2 Timothy 1:8-9 2 Timothy 2:10 1 Peter 4:12-13 Romans 8:17
   B. Those who KNOW Christ understand a privilege here.
      Romans 6:4-11
   C. How much of this fellowship are you ready for?

III. In Being Conformed To His Death.
   A. What is the nature of His death?
      Matthew 26:39    John 14:30-31
   B. A dying motivated out of love.
      Romans 6:4-11

IV. In the hope of attaining the resurrection from the dead.
   A. Is it just getting to heaven or is it actually getting to be with Him that you want?
      1 Corinthians 13:12
   B. What are you looking forward to in hope?

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