

The Surpassing Worth of Knowing Christ

Passage: Philippians 3:12-4:1

- I. **Knowing Christ is The Disciple's Greatest _____** – vs. 8a
 - A. This knowledge is gained in a _____ context
 - B. This knowledge is made possible because of Christ – vs. 12b
 - C. The disciple will sacrifice anything to know Christ – vs. 4-7, 8, 10

- II. **The Disciple's Knowledge of Christ is Obtained Progressively**
 - A. There is a continual _____ to know Christ more – vs. 12-14
 - B. There is an intense focus upon the goal of knowing Christ completely – vs. 13, 14
 - C. Spiritual _____ is marked by this intense focus on and desire for Christ – vs. 15, 16

- III. **A Disciple's Desire for Knowing Christ Must Be _____**
 - A. Spiritual distraction can lead to apostasy – vs. 17-19
 - B. Christ's disciples need spiritual _____ in their lives – vs. 17
 - C. Spiritual leaders must live with the fear of God – vs. 17

- IV. **Christ's Disciples Have a Genuine _____ to Live for And A Reason to Stand Firm**
 - A. The expectation that all hindrances to _____ Christ will be removed – 3:20-4:1
 - B. The expectation that Christ will be clearly known – vs. 12-14; 1 John 3:2

Conclusions for Discipleship

1. Knowing Christ is much more than initial salvation. It is a relationship between the Lord and his disciple which grows more personal over time. This relationship is cultivated over time through the study of God's Word, faithfulness to talking with God through prayer, and our obedience to the Lord.

2. Knowing Christ is only possible because of Christ; therefore, only through the power of Christ will we be able to have an enriched spiritual relationship with the Lord.
3. Growing into spiritual maturity is done intentionally.
4. Growing in the knowledge Christ will result in increased faithfulness to the Great Commission which Christ gave us.

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. What steps have you taken, or what habits have you developed, to assist you in cultivating a relationship with Christ?
2. Are there desires in your heart that prevent you from truly loving and knowing Christ more fully?
3. What are some ways that your relationship with Christ is being used in a positive way in your efforts to obey the Great Commission?
4. What are some hindrances to knowing Christ fully that you are looking forward to one day being removed forever?
5. What are some things you could do now to “press toward the goal” of knowing Christ more fully despite the hindrances that exist?