

# Knowing Christ

## KEY VERSES

Philippians 3:1-14

## KEY THEMES

Knowing Christ  
Birth, identity, and growth truth

## TEACHING NOTES

**Truth and grace**

**The priceless value of knowing Christ (Philippians 3:1-3)**

**Confidence in the wrong things (Philippians 3:4-7)**

**Confidence in the right things (Philippians 3:8-11)**

INTRODUCTION

INNOCENCE

CONSCIENCE

HUMAN GOVT.

PROMISE

LAW

GRACE

**Knowing Christ Jesus my Lord****Pressing toward the goal (Philippians 3:12)****God's purpose for me (Philippians 3:13-14)****Maturing in my relationship with Christ requires:**

**Lesson objective:** *To understand that spiritual maturity cannot happen apart from a growing relationship with Christ.*

## *Identity Truth*

I am forgiven – Luke 7:48

I am justified – Romans 5:1, 4

I am redeemed – 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9

I can have victory over sin – Romans 6

I have access to God's grace – Ephesians 2:8, 18

I am adopted into the family of God – Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5

I have an inheritance – Colossians 3:24; 1 Peter 1:3-4

I am chosen – Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:2

I am a child of God – John 1:12

I have heavenly citizenship – Ephesians 2:19

I am an heir of God – Romans 8:17; Galatians 3:29

I am a new creation – 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15

I am reconciled to God – Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:13

I am sanctified – Acts 26:18; 1 Corinthians 6:11

I am part of the body – 1 Corinthians 12:13

I have eternal life – John 10:28

I am saved by Christ – John 14:6; Acts 4:12, 16:31

I am a friend of God – John 15:15

I have eternal hope – Titus 2:13

I am born again – John 3:3-7

I have an advocate – 1 John 2:1

I am anointed by the Holy Spirit – John 14:26, 16:13; 1 John 2:27

I am sealed by the Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13, 4:30

My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 6:19

I am indwelt by the Holy Spirit – Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:14

I have been given spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit – 1 Corinthians 12

I am an ambassador for Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:20

I am a servant of God – Romans 6:22

I am buried with Christ – Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:10-12

**PERSONAL STUDY****Prepare your heart and mind**

Before you begin this study, take a few minutes to pause and push aside life's distractions. Ask God to help you focus on Him during this time. Ask Him to open your mind and heart to His truth and what He wants to teach you.

**Read Philippians 3:1-6**

*Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.*

*Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!*

*I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.*

What are the accomplishments Paul lists when he writes about having confidence in his own efforts?

Take a few minutes to reflect on your life. What things would you include in your 'having confidence in your own effort' list? (*What do you value? What accomplishments are you most proud of? What characteristics are tied to your worth?*)

Paul had it all. And for many years, he thought that was what life was all about. But then he came to know Christ and realized his priorities were all wrong.

**Read Philippians 3:7-14**

*I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!*

*I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

In verses seven and eight, Paul says that all those things he listed in verses five and six are worthless compared to knowing Christ – that everything pales in comparison to what Christ has done. And just as that was true for Paul, it's true for us. Nothing is as significant as knowing Christ, and nothing should be more important to us.

Considering these verses and how they relate to your own life, what are some ways you've come to know Christ better? What have you gained from coming to know Christ better?

If you struggle to think of answers to the two questions above, why do you think you struggle with this? What do you think it would take to get you to that place?

Knowing Christ is a process. Growth is a process. Valuing our accomplishments *less* and Christ *more* is a process. It isn't something we should just expect to master after a short period of time. This process takes work. As we learned during this week's teaching, it takes desire, focus, forgetting the past, looking ahead, knowing that we are running a race, and then finishing.

Take some time to reflect on your life and the faith journey you've been on. Where are you in this growth process? (*Do you need to ask God for desire? Do you need to ask God to help you focus? Do you need to forget the past – the bad and the good? Do you need to look ahead and not be so short-sighted? Do you need to remember your life has purpose and that you're running a race? Do you need to press on towards the finish?*)

What next step do you need to take in that process? And how are you going to take that step? Use the prompts below to identify where you are and what you're going to do to grow.

I need to ask God for desire, so I am going to...

I need to ask God to help me focus, so I am going to...

I need to forget the past – the good and the bad, so I am going to...

I need to look ahead and not be so short-sighted, so I am going to...

I need to remember my life has purpose and that I'm running a race, so I am going to...

I need to press on towards the finish, so I am going to...

### **Prayer time**

End your time of study in prayer. Thank God for the new identity you have in Christ. Ask Him to help you continue to focus on having confidence in the right things and stir up a desire to know Christ more.