

Text: Phil. 3:10
Title: Experiencing Christ

I. It is a *personal* experience

II. It is a *powerful* experience

III. It is also a *painful* experience - Congregation of our Lord

What is the greatest desire of a Christian? Throughout Scripture, the great men and women of God say their passion is to truly know Him.

David prayed: *Psalms 42:1-2 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?*

The greatest desire of a true Christian is to know God. Every other desire pales in significance to this one.

In the context of Phil. 3:10, Paul had endeavoured to gain the knowledge & righteousness of God by his position and merit / keeping the law alone

After realizing all his efforts gained him nothing he declares, read Phil. 3:7-9

This is what Paul experienced: he lost his self-righteousness and his reputation, but he gained far more than he lost. Eternal life in Christ

Righteousness was the great goal of Paul's life when he was a Pharisee, but it was a self-righteousness, a works righteousness, that he never really could attain. But when Paul trusted Christ, he lost his own self-righteousness and gained the righteousness of Christ.

One commentator declared...

"Paul looked at his own record and discovered that he was spiritually bankrupt. He looked at Christ's record and saw that He was perfect. When Paul trusted Christ, he saw God put Christ's righteousness to his own account!"

More than that, Paul discovered that his sins had been put on Christ's account on the cross ([2 Cor. 5:21](#)). And God promised Paul that He would never write his sins against him anymore.

Come to verse 10 Now focuses on Christ's resurrection power

Spurgeon stated...

"The resurrection of the Lord Jesus was in itself a marvellous display of power. To raise the dead body of our Lord from the tomb was as great a work as the creation. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each one wrought this greatest miracle."

We must experience Christ and the power of His resurrection!

I. It is a *personal* experience ("That I may know Him")

Paul says he wants to know Christ in Philippians 3:10; Now, he knew all about God from his intense training in the Law and his lofty stature in the Jewish community.

In Philippians 3:4-7, Paul explains that he met all the religious qualifications of the day, and he was at the apex of Jewish leadership.

Paul knew all about God, but Paul did not truly know God until he met Jesus face to face on the road to Damascus.

Paul's life changed because God revealed Himself to Paul, not because Paul had all the right answers. That's why Paul says we should have no "confidence in the flesh" (v. 3).

In order to truly know God, Paul says: *Philippians 3:7 ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.*

Paul had to be willing to turn his back on his human and religious accomplishments in order to gain knowledge of Christ.

He continues: *Philippians 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord,*

Paul uses the present tense verb "count" here, indicating that he was writing while he was in the process of giving up all for Christ

This was something that He was experiencing in the moment - He is stating - look at all I have / all I have done / He was in a position to be envied, yet - his attitude was take the world and give me Jesus!

Knowing Christ (v. 8). This means much more than knowledge *about* Christ, because Paul had an ambition to know Christ in an intimate and personal way (Experiential knowledge)

When the Bible talks about knowing God, it's not referring to a mere intellectual exercise.

Knowing God does not mean knowing facts about God. To know God is not just reciting a religious resume or family history or hearing a testimony of what God has done in someone else's life.

Knowing God involves encountering Him and finding out that He is who He says He is. To "know Christ" means to have a personal relationship with Him through faith.

You and I know *about* many people (**Queen**), even people who lived centuries ago, but we do not know them personally.

“Christianity *is* Christ.” Salvation is knowing Him/ intimate way.

There is only one true faith (Eph. 4:5). There are not multiple paths to heaven, but one way. Our trust in Christ makes us part of a body of believers with a common faith that centers squarely in Him.

Christ becomes a Christian’s greatest passion; knowing Him is the Christian’s number one priority.

That I may know Him / Can you say the same?

It is a *personal* experience

II. It is a *powerful* experience (“and the power of His resurrection”)

Knowing Christ is knowing power / spiritual power and life

- Power that emanates/comes from Christ’s resurrected life

Before He lived a religious life which gave him no power or spiritual life / bondage to keep the whole law / not possible and never satisfies

Paul wants to know experientially the power of Christ's resurrection.

Power - *dunamis*

1) strength power, ability

He is not thinking only of the divine power that raised Christ from the dead, but of the power of the resurrected Christ now operating in His life and by extension - the believer's life.

He no longer wants to live in a dead religion - But a living relationship with Christ - whole fills His heart and life

“Christ lives in me!” (Gal. 2:20)

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

"God working in me!"

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- Like the first disciples, our greatest need is not just to see or hear about the resurrection, but to have the resurrection happen to us.

- Lloyd Ogilvie says, “The most powerful historical proof of the resurrection is the ‘resurrected’ disciples. Dull, defeated people became fearless, adventuresome leaders. Cowards became courageous; the timid became triumphant; the inept did the impossible. ‘He is risen!’ became the joyous chant of a new life without limits” (Life without Limits, p. 283).

We must see Christ's resurrection - as our life and hope

I Cor. 15:1-11, Paul proves that Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

If He didn’t come out of the grave, neither will we!

1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

Vs 14 = Paul declares if Christ is not risen/ preaching & faith useless

- The cornerstone to Paul’s message was the resurrection of Christ

- Throughout the chapter affirms Christ died & rose > many witness

Term useless means empty or without content (as in vessels or cups)

- Thus, He shows that there is no message = dead Christ in grave

- Do you follow a useless faith? Is my standing up here useless?

Our faith is not in useless! It is based in reality (verse 17)

1 Corinthians 15:17-20 ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. ²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- **The fact that we believe this gospel > not futile (believe something)**

- **Something that is useless or futile.**

The object of our faith is real > substance in what we believe

Vs. 20 Now is Christ risen > all who die in Christ shall also rise

10543. Why Say “Lazarus, Come Forth”?

There was a story about Robert Ingersoll, the famous atheist of some decades ago...

It is told that at one time he sought to show how the miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus was just a trick to bolster His waning fortunes... To clinch his point, Ingersoll said to the audience, "Can anyone tell me now why Jesus said: 'Lazarus, come forth'?" (John 11:43) An old Christian in the back got up and said: "Yes! Because if He had not said 'Lazarus,' He would have had the whole graveyard of Bethany coming out to Him."

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

**Are you living a religious life with no power or spiritual life /
If you are you following Christianity out of obligation/ not possible and you will never satisfies**

As Paul desired to know experientially the power of Christ's resurrection may we also desire the same.

**That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection!
It is a **powerful** experience**

III. It is also a **painful experience (Philippians 3:10 and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.)**

Paul knew that it was a privilege to suffer for Christ ([Phil. 1:29-30](#)).

Philippians 1:29 ²⁹ *For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,*

In fact, suffering had been a part of his experience when the Lord called Him to faith in Christ

Three times in chapter he declares the loss that he has experienced

verses 7 and 8 twice

This was akin to a death, removed from His life, never to be possessed again, everything lived for changed forever -

Meaning: 1) to affect with damage, do damage to 2) to sustain damage, to receive injury, suffer loss

He was willing join into or share in the sufferings of Christ

That is what the Lord has called him to

As we grow in our knowledge of Christ and our experience of His power, we come under the attack of the enemy. Paul had been a persecutor at one time, but he learned what it means to be persecuted.

But each believer, by identifying himself with Christ, incurs a measure of Christ's afflictions ([Col 1:24](#)). These may be of varying kinds and degrees, both inward and external, as believers find themselves in a world that is hostile because of allegiance to Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ¹⁶ *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.* ¹⁷ *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,* ¹⁸ *while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

For a believer to share Christ's sufferings involves such a complete identification with him that it can only be explained as a death to the former life (cf. [Rom 6:4-11](#)).

It is a **painful experience**

Paul gained far more than he lost. In fact, the gains were so thrilling that Paul considered all other "things" nothing but rubbish in comparison!

No wonder he had joy—his life did not depend on the "things" of the world but on the eternal values found in Christ.

What is the greatest desire in your life? Is it know Him / What is your passion?

Remember man not live by bread alone / every word Lord

Make me as David: *Psalms 42:1-2* *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.* ² *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?*

Make me as Paul as his heart longs to **know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,**

The greatest desire of a true Christian is to know God.
Every other desire pales in significance to this one. Must Know Him!