

*FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER ~ April 29, 2012*



## **PHILIPPIANS: To Know Christ and Make Him Known**

### **“The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ” Philippians 3:1-11**

This week we are going to take another look at Philippians 3:1-11. Last week, our study focused on repentance and faith – two things that one must experience in order to come into relationship with God. Now let’s turn our attention to Paul’s words in verse 8 – “I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.”

Paul goes on to say in verse 10, “I want to know Christ.” What does it really mean to know Christ? What must one do, value, experience, and choose in order to grow in the knowledge of Jesus? How does knowing Christ better and better change your life?

As you study this passage, pray that Paul’s passion to know Jesus will become yours and ours.



## **KNOWING GOD**

**Read Philippians 3:1-11.** Why did the Apostle Paul view his many past religious “achievements” as liabilities rather than assets?

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What does it mean to you to know Christ?

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In Philippians 3:10, Paul says that he wants to know Christ and the power of his resurrection. But then he adds that he wants to share or participate in Christ’s sufferings. Explain the connection between suffering and knowing Christ.

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## **GROWING TOGETHER**

Has there been a time in your life when you lost something but gained a closer walk with Jesus? If so, talk about it.

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What change(s) in your life do you think you need to make in order to get better acquainted with Christ?

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## **SERVING OTHERS**

Christ commissioned us to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). In other words, we are here to help other people know God. How equipped are you to explain the gospel to a non-Christian? How could your Life Group, Bible study, or mentor help you grow more effective in this area?

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Sometimes, to participate in the sufferings of Christ means to come alongside people who are suffering. What steps could you take this week to help carry someone else’s pain?

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## **IN YOUR FAMILY...**

(a) In this week’s Bible reading, Paul says that nothing – not even good things – compares to the surpassing value (or worth) of knowing Christ. Talk as a family about where you are investing your time, money, and energy. Are there things that, while good in themselves, are distracting you from nourishing your spiritual life together?

(b) What spiritual disciplines do family members need to practice more often in order to know Christ better?

# **SERMON NOTES**