

## The Excellent Knowledge of Christ

### I. Paul's experience being a pattern for us - Verses 3:7-8 are the heart of Philippians and the initiation into the experience of Christ

#### A. Counting everything as loss on account of Christ

**Philippians 3:7-8** But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But moreover I also count all things to be loss...

**Philippians 3:4-6** Though I myself have something to be confident of in the flesh as well. If any other man thinks that he has confidence in the flesh, I more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day; of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to the righteousness which is in the law, become blameless.

**Galatians 1:13-14** For you have heard of my manner of life formerly in Judaism, that I persecuted the church of God excessively and ravaged it. <sup>14</sup> And I advanced in Judaism beyond many contemporaries in my race, being more abundantly a zealot for the traditions of my fathers.

#### B. The excellency of Christ's person, the excellent knowledge of Christ, and the gaining and knowing of Christ

**Philippians 3:8** ...I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ.

**Galatians 1:15-17** But when it pleased God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, <sup>16</sup> to reveal His Son in me that I might announce Him as the gospel among the Gentiles, immediately I did not confer with flesh and blood, <sup>17</sup> neither did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away to Arabia and again returned to Damascus.

**Acts 9:4-5** And He fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? <sup>5</sup> And he said, who are You, Lord? And He said, I am Jesus, whom you persecute.

**Colossians 1:12** Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light.

**Colossians 1:15** Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation.

**Colossians 1:17-19** And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him; <sup>18</sup> and He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things; <sup>19</sup> for in Him all the fullness was pleased to dwell.

**Ephesians 3:8** To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel.

**Ephesians 1:17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him.

**Ephesians 3:4-5** By which in reading it, you can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostle and prophets in spirit.

### **C. The righteousness based on faith and the righteousness out of God**

**Philippians 3:9** And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith.

**Romans 3:22** Even the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ to all those who believe, for there is no distinction.

**Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.

### **D. Being conformed to the mold of Christ's death by the power of His resurrection life to bring us to the goal**

**Philippians 3:10** To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

**Ephesians 1:19-20** And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe <sup>20</sup> which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead...

**Romans 1:4** Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**John 6:57** As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.

### **E. Having this mind, to pursue and lay hold of Christ for the goal of the out-resurrection**

**Philippians 3:11-16** If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead. <sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, <sup>14</sup> I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward. <sup>15</sup> Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you. <sup>16</sup> Nevertheless whereunto we have attained, by the same rule let us walk.

**Revelation 20:5-6** ...This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

**Joshua 13:1** Now Joshua was old and advanced in age; and Jehovah said to him, you are old and advanced in age, and very much of the land remains to be possessed.