



**THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD**  
**CHRIST THE LORD PARISH**  
**LAGOS PROVINCE 20**  
**LEKKI PHASE 1**

**DATE: TUESDAY OCTOBER 31, 2023**

**THEME: LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS**

**TOPIC: JOY IN KNOWING CHRIST**

**TEXT: PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11**

**INTRODUCTION**

We continue the study of the Book of Philippians. In Chapter 1, we discussed the Joy In Living For Christ, while in Chapter 2, we discussed the Joy In Serving Christ In Unity. Today, by the grace of God, we will be discussing the Joy In Knowing Christ.

There are many wonderful things in life, but knowing Christ is the greatest of all. So, Paul lays out his case for us here in **Philippians 3:1-11**. And as he does so he urges us to do three things.

**I. WATCH OUT FOR THOSE WHO WOULD DRAW YOUR ATTENTION AWAY FROM CHRIST (1-3)**

**A. Rejoice in the Lord (verse 1)**

The first step to keep your attention on Christ is to rejoice in him.

**B. Watch out for false teachers (verse 2)**

These were false teachers whose focus was on circumcision and the law rather than on Jesus Christ. They may have been Jews opposed to Christ, or a group known as the “Judaizers” who preached the necessity of circumcision and keeping the Jewish law along with faith in Christ. Paul used very harsh words to describe them, such as “Dogs”, “Evil Workers”, “Mutilators”.

**C. Hold on to your identity in Christ (verse 3)**

Paul identifies the true circumcision, the true people of God as those who worship by the Spirit of God (**Jn. 4:23-24**), who glory in Christ Jesus (**Jer. 9:23-24**) and who have no confidence in the flesh.

**II. PUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST, NOT IN YOURSELF (4-6)**

**A. Do not put confidence in your background (verse 5)**

Paul is putting together his resume for God here, and he begins with his background. He was circumcised on the eighth day. He is of the people of Israel, a full-fledged Jew by birth. He is of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews. There were both Hebrew-speaking Jews at this time and Greek-speaking Jews. Paul spoke Hebrew, his parents spoke Hebrew, he was raised

speaking Hebrew – and this gave him just one more edge in his resume.

### **B. Do not put confidence in your achievements (verse 5b-6)**

Paul was a Pharisee. The Pharisees not only knew the law. They lived, breathed and ate the law.

As for zeal, persecuting the church. Others may have complained about the church, but Paul made it his sole mission to destroy it.

And then as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. Whatever the law said to do, Paul did it.

### **C. Count these things as loss for the sake of Christ (verse 7)**

Paul said his background and achievements were all “rubbish” compared to knowing Christ.

## **III. MAKE KNOWING CHRIST THE SUPREME DESIRE OF YOUR LIFE (8-11)**

### **A. Consider everything a loss compared to knowing Christ (verse 8)**

We are to consider everything a loss compared to knowing Christ – our background, our degrees, our accomplishments, our bank account, our possessions, the things we care most dearly about, our children, our spouse, our family. These are all good things in and of themselves, they are good gifts from God, but they pale in comparison to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ.

Knowing Christ personally is the greatest thing in all the world. It is so amazing that Paul willingly lost all things simply to know Christ. And he has no regrets. He says, “I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” But we want to gain Christ without losing anything.

### **B. Be found in Christ having the righteousness that comes by faith (verse 9)**

There are two kinds of righteousness. There is the righteousness that comes from the law and is by works. And there is the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. The first is based on compliance or non-compliance with God’s law. The second is based on the perfect obedience of Jesus Christ. God offers us the righteousness of Christ as a free gift when we place our faith in Christ.

### **C. Become like Christ in his death and resurrection (verse 10-11)**

Here is Paul’s testimony, and here is the model for us to follow. Paul says, “I want to know Christ.” Now Paul already knows Christ. He has known Christ for nearly thirty years when he writes these words. But he wants to know Christ more fully and deeply with each passing day.

Paul says, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.” Ephesians 1:20 says that God exerted his mighty power in raising Christ from the dead. There is power in the resurrection of Christ. And that power is available to us as we live for Christ. It doesn’t come from us. It comes from God through the Holy Spirit.

There is power available for living the Christian life, but too many of us never take hold of it. We want power for Christian living, but not willing to die to ourselves and our own agendas.

## **CONCLUSION**

As we close this study, I would like to ask you spell some questions.

- 1) Is there anything in your life that is drawing your attention away from Christ?
- 2) When it comes to acceptance before God, in what are you placing your confidence? Why

would you trust in your own righteousness when you can have the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith in Jesus Christ?

3) Do you want to know Christ more than anything else? Do you want to know the power of his resurrection in your life? Do you want to share in the fellowship of his sufferings so you can get there? Knowing Christ is the greatest thing of all. Why be satisfied with anything else!