

## Knowing God, My Only Aim

July 26, 2015 Sun AM

### Philippians 3:3–15

3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Paul's reference to circumcision in his epistles always speaks of the cutting off of the sins of the flesh; meaning breaking the power of lust, temptation and sin in our lives, being set free from the enticement and power of sin, having the power to say "no" and refrain from sin.

*Colossians 2:10–12*

10 *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

11 *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:*

12 *Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

### Philippians 3:3–15

4 **Though I might also have confidence in the flesh.** If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

**As Christians, we fall into the deadly trap of trusting in:**

**WORKS** (*doing the right thing or good works in our own power and efforts*)

*Ephesians 2:8–10*

8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

10 *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

*Matthew 7:21–23*

21 *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

**KNOWLEDGE** (believing the lie that "knowledge is power", objectifying God in the presumption that the more knowledge I acquire the more successful or empowered I'll become)

1 Corinthians 8:1-3

1 Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge.

Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

2 And if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

3 But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

2 Timothy 3:1-7

1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**Philippians 3:3-15**

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

When we experience the glory and ecstasy of communion with God, and the surge of life, joy, strength, power and hope it brings, we never want to resort to anything human or natural again.

Galatians 2:20

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Galatians 5:4

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

## Philippians 3:3–15

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

The power of Jesus' death and resurrection, actively working in my daily life, is experienced only by personal relationship with God.

2 Peter 1:3–4

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge (epignosis - true knowing) of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Trying to live the Christian life by **WORKS** or **KNOWLEDGE** is trying to take a shortcut, the easy way out, unwilling to make the commitment of relationship. It never works and always brings frustration and failure.

Any relationship of genuine knowing and intimacy requires:

1. consistent time - daily solitude when all interruptions stop
2. surrendered vulnerability - sharing of one's heart and deepest thoughts displays the greatest trust
3. quiet listening - hearing the other's heart with no preconceived conclusions nor agendas

Revelation 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Luke 14:16–24

16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.  
24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

### Philippians 3:3–15

11 **If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.**

2 Corinthians 5:9–11  
9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.  
10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.  
11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

### Philippians 3:3–15

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**

14 **I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

### Jeremiah 9:23–24

23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Neither let the mighty man glory in his might, Let not the rich man glory in his riches:

24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, **That he understandeth and knoweth me,** That I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: For in these things I delight, saith the LORD.