

# ***Personal / Small Group Sermon Study***

## **The Goal of the Christian Life is to Know Christ and to be Like Him**

**Week of September 12, 2021 A.D.**

What does it mean “to know Christ”? Let’s talk about that in this week’s study.

### **Read Philippians 3:10**

1. One definition of “know” is: “to have a clear perception or understanding of; be sure of or well informed about.” Does this definition of “know” explain what Paul had in mind in verse 10? Please explain the reasons your answer.
2. Another definition of “know” is: “to have developed a relationship with someone through spending time with them; to be acquainted or familiar with.” Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Most people who live in the United States are familiar with Christ; however, only a few of them have a relationship with Christ.”

### **Read John 15:9 – 14**

3. If a person refers to you as being their friend, do you expect that person to: (a) love you? (b) be joyful when you experience a blessing? and (c) be available to spend time with you when you need them? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
4. Based upon what Jesus has stated in these verses, which of these two statements best describes your relationship with Jesus: (a) I know Christ as a friend or (b) I know about Christ? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

### **Read 2 Peter 1:1 – 2**

5. What does it mean to be “a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ”? Is your faith in Jesus a result of your righteousness or His? To what extent (and how) do you consider your faith in Christ to be “precious”? Refer to verse 2. In what ways do you demonstrate to the world the value which you place on the grace and peace of God? How is the extent and measure of your grace and peace a function of your “knowledge” of God and Jesus? Please explain your answers.

### **Read 2 Peter 1:3 – 4**

6. Is there any power in the universe which is greater than “His divine power” to which Peter refers? Please state the meaning of “everything we need” for (a) “life” and (b) “godliness”. How is “everything you need for life and godliness” supplied through your “knowledge of Christ”? Have you been “called” by Christ? What is the “glory of Christ”? What is the “goodness of Christ”? Please explain the meaning of and reasons for your answers.

7. Do you “know Christ” in the way that the word “knowledge” is used by Peter in 2 Peter 1:3 and in the way that the words “know Christ” are used by Paul in Phil. 3:10? If so, please state how the “divine power” of Christ has (a) transformed your life and (b) made you into a more godly person ? If you do not “know Christ” in the personal and dynamic way that Peter and Paul are describing in these verses, (a) why not? and (b) do you want to do so? Please explain your answers.

#### **Read 2 Peter 1:4**

8. In your opinion, what are the “very great and precious promises” which Jesus has given to Peter? Has Jesus given those same promises to all believers in Christ? How do you (a) “participate in the divine nature” and (b) “escape the corruption in the world”? Is all “corruption” caused by “evil desires”? Please explain your answers.
9. Is America a corrupt nation? In your opinion, has the American church (a) escaped the corruption in the world and (b) been winning the personal battle against “evil desires”? Have there been, and will there be, consequences for America if it is corrupt? Please explain your answers.

#### **Read 2 Peter 1:5 – 9**

10. Refer to verses 5 – 7. Please define each of the character qualities/character traits which are mentioned in these verses. Please explain why and how God expects every Christian to develop and live-out those qualities.
11. Paul said in Phil. 3:10 that he wanted to “know Christ”. In the verses from 2 Peter 1, Peter stresses the need to have “knowledge of Christ”. What is the basic life principle which Peter and Paul are both trying to express to us and to all followers of Christ? Why? What are the benefits which we receive from knowing Christ? What are the benefits that the world receives when Christians know Christ? Please explain your answers.
12. Please explain the meaning of verse 9. Is verse 9 saying anything to you personally? If so, what? If not, why not?

**Consider:** The entire purpose of life is to know Christ and to be conformed to the likeness of Christ. Nothing else matters. Now what? “You think about that.” Amen.