

# Personal/Small Group Study

Week of March 3, 2024 A.D.

## To Know Jesus Is to Love Him. To Love Jesus Is to Obey Him.

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching." John 14:23

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

### Read Philippians 3:7-9

1. To whom or to what do you devote most of your time on a daily basis? What do you consider to be your most prized possession or achievement in life? What would be your emotional response if everything that you considered to be important and/or valuable was suddenly gone from your life?
2. How would your life change if you were no longer allowed (or if you were no longer able) to: (a) possess, read, and study the Bible; (b) attend a church service anywhere; (c) serve in a ministry; and/or (d) mention the name of Jesus?
3. Refer to verse 7. Please make a list of everything that you have lost, sacrificed, or abandoned for the sake of knowing and/or serving Christ.
4. Are you a disciple of Christ Jesus? If not, why not? If so, please make a list of the specific actions and behavior patterns which confirm and distinguish that you are a disciple of Christ.
5. Refer to verse 8. Do you agree that knowing Jesus Christ is the highest honor, achievement, and goal that any human can pursue during their life on planet Earth?
6. Refer to verse 9. What does it mean to "be found in Christ"? Will any person enter into eternal life without "being found in Christ"? What is "the law" which is mentioned by Paul? Can God allow you to enter into His heaven if you have not received "the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith"?

### Read 1 John 1:8-10

7. Refer to verse 8. Does every non-believer: (a) claim to be without sin? (b) deny that Jesus is the only way to heaven? and/or (c) love sin and selfishness more than they love God?
8. Refer to verse 9. Must a person understand and acknowledge (a) the righteous commands of God and (b) the deity of Christ in order to understand their need for salvation through faith in Christ?
9. Refer to verse 10. If a person has no hunger and thirst for the Word of God (i.e. if "God's Word has no place in our lives"), can that person rightly claim to have received the gift of eternal life from God?

### Read Philippians 3:10-11; 17

10. In these verses, is Paul proclaiming himself to be better than all other believers in Christ? Or, is Paul simply telling us what is required from every person who claims to have a relationship with Christ?

### Read 1 John 2:3-6

11. How do these verses help us to understand what Paul is saying in Philippians 3:10-11; 17?
12. Does "the righteousness which comes from God and is by faith" (Paul's words) excuse those who are going to heaven (instead of going to hell) from "obeying God's Word" and from "walking as Jesus did"?

**Consider:** After further review of our lives here on earth, God's instant replay may show that many people in the church in America have been deceived (see 2 Timothy 4:1-5) into thinking that they are going to heaven when, in fact, they are entering "the wide gate" and the "broad road" that leads to destruction (see Matthew 7:13-14). "You think about that." Amen.