

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of March 10, 2024 A.D.

"Why Do You Call Me "Lord", But Do Not Do What I Say?"

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

Read Philippians 3:10

1. Paul said, "I want to know Christ." What is the difference between knowing a person and knowing about a person? Based on your knowledge of the New Testament writings of Paul and the book of Acts, did Paul (a) know Christ or (b) know about Christ?
2. If Paul knew Christ, how did Paul get to know Christ? If Paul already knew Christ when he wrote to the Philippians, why would he state in verse 10 "I want to know Christ"?
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Most Americans who regularly attend church know some facts about Christ. But, most of these same people do not know Christ."

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1; 5:6-10

4. Who is the audience to which these verses are directed? Does verse 9 accurately describe the top priority and only goal of your life? Would Jesus agree with your response? Do you want to spend eternity in heaven or in hell? If your answer is heaven, is "living eternally for the pleasure of Jesus" the only reason that you want to go to heaven? If not, what are the other reasons? What are the Bible verses which support your other reasons for wanting to go to heaven?
5. At the judgment seat of Christ, will Jesus be judging only those the people who "know Christ" or will Jesus be judging all people? Based on 2 Corinthians 5:15, what will be the standard by which all believers will be judged?

Read John 14:15

6. Can you sincerely proclaim that you "love" a person that you do not actually know? Does your love for Jesus come through a person relationship with Jesus or through knowing facts about Jesus? According to this verse, what is the only way to prove your love for Jesus?

Read John 14:16-17

7. Can the Holy Spirit live within any person who does not know and love Jesus? Can a person who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit reject the truth of any of the teachings of Christ? If the Holy Spirit lives within you, what are the resulting consequences for the following people when you choose to reject the truth of the teaching of Christ: (a) you, (b) your family, (c) your non-believing friends, (d) your church family, and (e) Jesus?

Read John 14:20-21

8. Can a person have a relationship with God the Father without (a) first having a love relationship with Christ and (b) having the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit?
9. Can a person honestly state that they love Christ without having and obeying the commands of Christ? Can a person have and obey the commands of Christ without (a) studying the Bible and (b) having a consistent life of daily prayer?

Read Philippians 3:10-11

10. Will a person "attain to the resurrection from the dead" without (a) knowing Christ? and (b) receiving the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit? and/or (c) sharing in the sufferings of Christ?

Read Colossians 3:1-4

11. Is the statement "you have been raised with Christ" true for every person who has received salvation through faith in Christ Jesus our Lord? Is it possible to obey the commands of verses 1 and 2 without: (a) enjoying a daily time of prayer and fellowship with God through the Holy Spirit? (b) daily study of, and obedience to, the Word of God? (c) having regular fellowship with, and a ministry of serving others in, the Body of Christ?
12. Are verses 3-4 true for every person who is a follower of Christ? Are these verses true for you? Would Jesus agree with your answer?

Consider: Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:13-14 "You think about that." Amen.