

# Sermon Reflections

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## *Nothing Better than Knowing Christ* (Philippians 3:7-12)

**Summary:** Let nothing distract you away from Christ and from your pursuit to know Him more.

### **1. Know Christ Himself as Your Greatest Good (vv. 7-8)**

- Paul's externals in the flesh were "reason for confidence" prior to his salvation. As believers, can doing 'good' things such as praying and memorizing scripture lead to our own "confidence in the flesh"? Why or why not?
- What does Paul mean, "that I may gain Christ"? Wasn't this already accomplished on the Damascus Road? Given the active language of the passage, is there an ongoing aspect of gaining Christ that applies to you?

### **2. Know Christ First as Your Righteous Refuge (v. 9)**

- Consider Reeves' statement, "the believer will grow more Christlike over time, but never more righteous." Why is this important?
- Paul did not have a righteousness of his own, but "through faith in Christ." In your own words explain how this is central to Christian doctrine.

### **3. Know Christ More as Your Sanctifying Savior (v. 10)**

- How can we avoid giving in to sin that 'stunts our growth' in the knowledge of Christ?
- What is the balance point between striving for theological understanding, and leaning on Christ's righteousness? In your own walk, do you think they are in harmony, or in opposition?
- Explain how, like Paul, believers may share Christ's sufferings.

### **4. Know Christ Fully as Your Resurrecting Lord (vv. 11-12)**

- Paul's highest aspiration was that, by Christ, he "may attain the resurrection of the dead." In Revelation 20 and 22 there is a view to the final glorification of saints. Reflect upon how this gives you comfort in your daily struggle to live for Christ.
- "Press on" means to not be stagnant. How do you avoid spiritual stagnation? Give specifics of what "reminders" you use and how you employ them.