

## That I May Know Christ

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

Philippians 3:10-11

#### Discussion Questions

1. What do you do to get to know a person better?
2. Read Philippians 3:10-11. The Apostle Paul made four resolutions while he was in the Roman prison towards the end of his life:
  - a. **He wanted to know Christ (v. 10a).** Paul knew Jesus Christ for most of his life. He had, after all, written most of the New Testament epistles. He had walked the whole of the Roman Empire to spread the gospel; now that he was in prison, he still wanted to know Christ. How long have you known Christ? What have you been doing in order to get to know Him better? Knowing Christ will never get old, what motivates you to keep on knowing Him? What are His promises in the Bible that give you glimpses of who Jesus is?
  - b. **He wanted the power of the resurrection (v. 10b).** Paul was an old man locked in a prison. He could be released or not, but what he wanted was the power of the resurrection. Unlike other religious leaders who died and was buried but did not rise from the dead, Jesus' tomb was empty after His resurrection. On his way to Damascus to further persecute the Christians, what did Saul (Paul) realize when he heard Jesus' voice talking to him? Because of Christ's resurrection, what hope do Christians have after dying? Discuss why Christians should not be afraid of death.
  - c. **He wanted the fellowship with Christ's suffering and to conform to his death (v. 10b).** Share and discuss how Jesus suffered before He died. Nails did not hold Jesus to the cross; His love for you did. What does suffering for Christ mean?

How does the Holy Spirit help you to suffer for Christ? People die for all kinds of reasons. Would dying for Christ be worth it for you?

- d. **He wanted to attain to the resurrection from the dead (v. 11).** Paul never doubted resurrection. He wanted a resurrection that is exceptional. What is the basis of the rewards in heaven? Colossians 3:23 says "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." What does doing everything for the Lord mean? Does it only apply for the service we do in the church? Could you work for your inheritance in heaven? How?

### Walk

Living to God, death to sin and the world-- is the ideal Christian life. Living to God is wanting to know Christ, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and to attain the resurrection from the dead. How can Paul's commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ be an example to you?

### Worship & Prayer

*Heavenly Father, thank You for making it possible for me to know Christ more and more as I continue in my walk of faith. Please give me the desire and commitment to experience real spiritual growth in my life and to anticipate my eternal future with You, because resurrection is for real. And while I am still here on earth, give me the courage and strength to suffer for You in response to Your love and what You have done for me through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.*