

The Joy of Knowing Jesus

(Philippians 3:10-17)

Introduction

Repeatedly, I see people profess life-change and see positive results and spiritual growth. Yet, a few months later they seem to fade into the sunset.

Some would declare that that person never really experienced life change. In some cases, I would agree. Yet, I think in other cases, there is more to the story.

Could it be that in the early weeks of their new life in Christ, they become involved in knowing about Christ, knowing about the church, and knowing about the Christian life that they miss the more important task?

Could it be that they become knowledgeable of the rudiments of the faith (words, actions, expectations) and think, there must be more. They become familiar with Christianity, only to become complacent in their faith.

May I suggest, the problem may not always be NO LIFE-CHANGE, but that they never really understood the goal or primary purpose of faith and that is a close, experiential knowledge of Jesus. Believers are to do more than know about Jesus, they are to know Him experientially.

While joy begins with a saving knowledge of Jesus, it flourishes from an experiential knowledge of Jesus.

Contextualize this sermon in the series.

Contextualize Philippians 3.

I. The Goal of Knowing Christ (3:10-11)

A) The Person (v. 10)

B) The Power (v. 10)

C) The Pain (v. 10)

II. The Priority of Knowing Christ (3:7-9, 12-13)

A) The value (v. 7-9)

B) The passion (v. 12)

C) The Reason (v. 12)

D) The Hindrances (v. 13)

III. The Pursuit of Knowing Christ (3:14-17)

A) Choose (v. 15)

B) Obey (v. 16)

C) Imitate (v. 17)

Conclusion