

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS
“That I May Know Him” -- As Saviour
Philippians 3:1-10

Introduction

1. A text without a context may easily become a pretext. Thus the real meaning of the text is hidden or covered in favor of something alleged or assumed.

2. Scripture must be studied. But, when it is, we should cry out: CONTEXT?!

3. Consider, therefore, the context of the phrase “that I may know Him” (v. 10). Look at the first verse of the chapter:-

a. Here is a conclusion. “Finally” is literally “for the rest.” There is a change in subject matter. It concerns “brethren.”

b. Here is an injunction. “Rejoice in the Lord.” The environment for “rejoicing” is “in the Lord.” Attend to the present imperative.

c. Here is conviction. “To write . . . it is safe.” Previous references were not tedious for Paul. But now, he writes by injunction as a safeguard. That is what the Word of God really is!

4. Now, with that in mind, how do you get to know Him, the Lord Jesus Christ? There are several ways. Let’s check them out:-

1. WAY #1 -- Take a WARNING v. 2

There are a lot of negatives in the Bible. Here are three of them. They are indicated by the imperatival verb translated “look, take heed or behold.” So, be careful, be alert, be sensible. About what?

a. The dogs. This is a reference to those who clutter up the Gospel of God’s grace. Salvation is by grace through faith alone.

b. The evil workers. This is a reference to those who corrupt the Gospel of God’s grace. Zeal without absolute Truth is mockery.

c. The conclusion. This is a reference to those who confuse the Gospel of God’s grace. The work of Christ claims total efficacy. Don’t accept a substitute gospel.

NOTE: Each of the above named employs a definite article. Hence specific identifiable groups are in view. Take the warning seriously. There are charlatans out there!

2. WAY #2 -- Take a POSITION V. 3

The present tense verb “we are” states a position -- unequivocally. What is it?

a. “We are” the circumcision. This is not a physical matter, but spiritual. Purity is the

issue.

b. “We are” the worshipers. The present participle points to those who serve in worship. It is accomplished by the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit.

c. “We are” the glorying ones. The exultation noted here is “in Christ Jesus.” He is the embodiment of all a believer enjoys.

d. “We are” the confiding ones. The perfect participle denotes abiding, continuing confidence. The flesh is utterly abandoned because it is useless (Ro. 8:8).

3. WAY #3 -- Take an INVENTORY vv. 4-6

Having listed what “we are,” the question is now what “we have.” Since this is like a biographical statement, the apostle Paul lists his assets. There are at least seven of them:

a. Circumcised the 8th day. He was a true Jew.

b. Stock of Israel. He had a special privilege.

c. Tribe of Benjamin. He enjoyed a favored link.

d. Hebrew of Hebrews. He had an unmixed descent.

e. Pharisee. He practiced strict law observance.

f. Persecuting the church. He was a fanatic against Jesus.

g. Blameless. He was without fault.

4. WAY #4. Take an ACCOUNTING vv. 7, 8

This “way” is like balancing one’s accounts. It is a hard look at the credits and debits in one’s life. Remarkably, the verb “count” is used three times in these verses. The following conclusions are standouts.

a. Plus for minus. The irreproachable life endangered Paul’s salvation.

b. Loss for knowledge. Better to lose everything to get the surpassing knowledge of Christ Jesus.

Conclusion To get to “that I might know Him,” Scripture says: 1. Suffer total loss. The verb is aorist passive. 2. Evaluate your assets as garbage. The results of these conclusions are: 1. To win (as a prize) Christ. 2. Be found in Christ. This is without your own righteousness sourced in works, but righteousness sourced in God but available a. by means of faith and b. on the grounds of faith. 3. To know Him. This is the theme of our studies. It is something intimate. Associated with this knowledge of “Him” is the power of His resurrection (new dynamic life) and the fellowship of His sufferings (identification with His cross and enduring pain). Let me ask you -- do you KNOW Him? If you really do, MAKE Him known for the salvation of someone else.