

Philippians

Lesson #12, Chapter 3:8-14

God's Word has such richness to it that we cannot come to study it without His eye-opening and soul-stirring help. Be sure to take time to ask the Lord for His wisdom to gain insight into this passage, so your heart is changed as a result.

1. Paul begins Philippians 3:8 with the phrase, *more than that I* (ESV *indeed, I*; NKJV *yet indeed I also*; NIV *what is more*). What is he comparing between Philippians 3:7 and 3:8?
2. Why is Paul willing to *count all things loss* according to Philippians 3:8?
3. What *kind of things* does Paul count as loss? See 1 Corinthians 3:18-23; 8:1-2; 2 Corinthians 11:18, 22-33; Philippians 3:3-6.
4. How would counting all things *loss* help you know Christ better, in the way Paul is speaking in Philippians 3:8? How do the "things" get in the way of knowing Christ?
5. What information about Jesus in Philippians 3:8 helps us see *why* Paul counted things loss *for the sake of Christ, because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ, and to gain Christ*?
6. Define *Lord* (Strong's #2962). *Lord* is the Greek equivalent of Yahweh, the memorial name of God as seen in Exodus 3:14. See also Exodus 3:13-15; John 20:28; Acts 2:36;

Philippians 2:10-11; 2 Peter 2:1; Jude 4 to understand the meaning behind “Lord” as used in Philippians 3:8.

7. Paul so highly values the Lord Jesus that he counts it a privilege to know Him. What else does Paul desire according to verse 9?

8. Why is this characteristic, as seen in verse 9, essential for all who would know Christ? See 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:16; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:3-7.

9. Just as Paul has done in verse 9, take some time to consider how Jesus’ righteousness is given to all who turn to Him in faith. In what way have these awesome and precious truths impacted how you think and live?

10. In this passage, Paul says he desires to *gain Christ* (verse 8) and *be found in Him in His righteousness* (verse 9), yet that’s not all. What else does Paul desire from the Lord Jesus according to verse 10?

11. See what you can learn about the word *know* as used here [Strong’s #1097].

12. What experiential, relational ways did Paul desire to know the Lord Jesus in Philippians 3:10?

“Paul already knew Christ as his Savior. But he wanted to know Him more intimately as his Lord.”
~The Bible Knowledge Commentary¹

“Paul wants to come to know the Lord Jesus in that fulness of experimental knowledge which is only wrought by being like Him. He wants to know also in an experiential way the power of Christ’s resurrection. That is, he wants to experience the same power which raised Christ from the dead surging through his own being, overcoming sin in his life and producing the Christian graces.” ~Kenneth Wuest²

“An unknown God can neither be trusted, served, nor worshipped.”
~A. W. Pink, *The Attributes of God*, from the Preface

13. In verse 10 Paul writes about knowing Christ better through suffering. Look up the following Scriptures, then explain what you learn about the “fellowship of suffering” with Christ. See John 15:18-20; Romans 8:16-17; 2 Corinthians 1:5; Galatians 2:20; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Peter 4:12-13; 5:9.

14. The last item in Philippians 3:10 is a result of entering into Christ’s sufferings. What happens as we fellowship with Christ in our sufferings according to verse 10?

15. Look up the following verses to gain a better grasp of what it means to be “conformed to His death.” See Luke 9:23; 2 Corinthians 4:7-12; 5:14-15; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21; 2:3-8.

16. What does Paul mean when he says he desires to “attain to the resurrection from the dead” in Philippians 3:11? See Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:16-17, 20-23; Philippians 3:21; 1 Peter 1:3-5.

¹ Robert P. Lightner, [“Philippians.”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 661.

² Kenneth S. Wuest, [Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader](#), vol. 5 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 93.

- a. How should that knowledge and understanding about our future resurrection change how we live?
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17. The ESV and NKJV connect verse 11 to Paul's previous comments, so that the transition from verse 10 into verse 11 reads, "...becoming like Him in His death, *that by any means possible* I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." Explain how verse 11 further reveals Paul's intense desire to *know Christ*. See also Romans 8:18, 23.

 18. After ardently giving voice to his deepest heart desires, what is Paul quick to concede in verse 12?
 - a. Define *perfect* [Strong's #5048]. See Philippians 3:21.

 - b. Define *press on* [Strong's #1377]. See also 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 1 Timothy 6:12; Hebrews 12:1 to gain a picture of what Paul meant.

 19. What does Paul mean when he says he desires to *lay hold of that for which he was laid hold of by Christ Jesus*? As you look up the following verses to help you form your answer, consider why God grabs hold of anyone. What is your purpose as a believer? See Ephesians 1:4; Philippians 3:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 2:11-14.

 20. Because Paul is not yet made perfect, what does he do according to verse 13?

21. Obviously, we will remember things that happened to us in the past, so what does it look like *practically* to “forget what lies behind” and “reach forward to what lies ahead?”
- a. How does the passage we’re studying in this lesson provide a framework for not being encumbered by the past?
22. What lies ahead for all believers according to Philippians 3:14?
23. Sometimes we need to be reminded of the goal, of what we’re really living for, and what we’ve been called to do as believers. How does Philippians 3:12-14 help direct your heart and mind in how you need to live? What are some ways you can live more faithfully with your eye on *the goal*?

“Yes, for His sake I have been caused to forfeit all things, and I count them but dung, in order that I might come to know Him in an experiential way, and to come to know experientially the power of his resurrection, and a joint-participation in His sufferings, being brought to the place where my life will radiate a likeness to His death, if by any means I might arrive at the goal, namely, the out-resurrection out from among those who are dead.” ~Kenneth Wuest’s translation of Philippians 3:10-11³

³ Kenneth S. Wuest, [*Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*](#), vol. 5 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997), 95.

My Goal Is God Himself
by Frederic Brook

My goal is God Himself, not joy, nor peace,
Nor even blessing, but Himself, my God;
'Tis His to lead me there—not mine, but His—
At any cost, dear Lord, by any road.

So faith bounds forward to its goal in God,
And love can trust her Lord to lead her there;
Upheld by Him, my soul is following hard
Till God hath full fulfilled my deepest prayer.

No matter if the way be sometimes dark,
No matter though the cost be oft-times great,
He knoweth how I best shall reach the mark,
The way that leads to Him must needs be strait.

One thing I know, I cannot say Him nay;
One thing I do, I press towards my Lord;
My God my glory here, from day to day,
And in the glory, there my great Reward.