The Goal of Christian Living
TS022

That I May Know Him
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I. Motivation (Phil. 3:7–14)

A. Paul’s motivation: To know Him
   1. Paul already saved 20 years when he wrote these words
   2. A lot of believers are saved by a “Stranger”—they don’t know the Savior
   3. Not enough to know about Him

B. What is your motivation?
   1. Do you take your life and add Christian labels? — or is your whole life and motivation changed?
   2. Reevaluate your Christianity—“bend the church and bow the world.”
   3. Let a man examine himself: Are you a channel or a barrier?

C. The New Testament is tied up with knowing God (a Person)
   1. Jesus: “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6)
      a. Truth is a Person
      b. Life is a Person
      c. Peace is a Person (Eph. 2:14)
   2. Christian life is a pathway, not a static condition (Prov. 4:18)—complacency is one of the biggest problems of contemporary Christians

II. Knowing God

A. How? Ongoing fellowship
   1. Daily, intimate
   2. Not religion
   3. Walk with God—like:
      a. Enoch, who walked with God and was no more
      b. Noah, who walked with God and was saved through the flood
      c. Abraham, who walked with God and became His friend
   4. Relationship should lead to fellowship

B. Three marks of knowing God
   1. If we keep His commandments (1 John 2:3–4)
   2. Whoever abides in Him does not sin (i.e. regularly practice sin [1 John 3:6])
   3. Everyone who loves, knows God (1 John 4:7–8)

C. Know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings
   1. Do you want all these?
   2. Paul: “I now rejoice in my sufferings for you . . . ” (Col. 1:24)
   3. “I endure all things for the sake of the elect (2 Tim. 2:10)

D. Humble yourself first—through confession
   1. To one another
   2. To God
   3. Only confessed sins are forgiven sins
That I Might Attain to the
Resurrection from the Dead

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I. Paul’s Life Aims (Phil 3:7–14)
   A. That I may know Him (1 John)—which means:
      1. Keep His commandments (2:3–4)
      2. Do not sin (3:6)
      3. Love one another (4:7–8)
   B. That I may attain to the resurrection from the dead
      1. The “out-resurrection” (or “first resurrection”—blessed and holy (Rev. 20:6)
      2. By any means—no matter what it costs
         a. Paul did not take it for granted
         b. Resurrection—not heaven—is our ultimate goal
      3. Heaven = Depart and be with Christ (Phil. 1:23), a resting place, not a final destination

II. Focus on the Return of Christ and Resurrection
   A. Eager anticipation
      1. Eagerly wait for Him (Heb. 9:28)
      2. Hope of Christ’s appearing—holiness—Christ purifying (Titus 2:11–14)
   B. Redemption of the body
      1. Spirit, soul and body (1 Thess. 5:23–24)
      2. Redemption of the body (Rom. 8:23)
      3. Transformation of the body (Phil. 3:20–21)
      4. To be like the Lord—emphasis on self-purifying (1 John 3:1–3)
   C. All creation waiting
      1. For the revealing of the sons of God (Rom. 8:18–22 [compare Col. 3:3–4])
      2. All nature expectant (Ps. 96:11–13; 98:7–9)
   D. What will it be like? (1 Thess. 4:13–18)
      1. Shout of the Lord
      2. Voice of the archangel
      3. Trumpet of God
      4. Caught up = harpazo—a sudden, forceful act
   E. Five changes: (1 Cor. 15:35–54)
      1. Corruption ➔ Incorruption
      2. Dishonor ➔ Glory
      3. Weakness ➔ Power
      4. Natural (soulish) ➔ Spiritual
      5. Mortal ➔ Immortal

III. How Do We Qualify?
   A. Holiness (Heb. 12:14)
   B. Expectancy (Heb. 9:28)
   C. Watch, keep watch, be on the alert (Mark 13:35–37)