

## THE PRICELESS VALUE OF KNOWING CHRIST

**Scripture:** Phil 3:4-14

March 25, 2020

*Though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could.*

*Indeed, if other have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even made! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.*

*I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!*

*I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection from which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

**Prayer:** Almighty and everlasting God,

Not a day goes by that we don't face questions about our faith. Our commitment to you is challenged by decisions we must make and by societal pressures with which we must deal. Fill us anew with steadfast hope, that we may deepen our resolve to respond to your call with trust.

Thank you for your faithfulness to us, even when we fail to be faithful to you. Renew our covenant with you this day as we offer to give ourselves fully to you this year. Deepen our commitment to you and increase our interest in your Word and Knowing You. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we obtain what you promise, make us love what you command.

You have given us the Spirit you promised to help us witness to Jesus. Inspire us afresh to proclaim Jesus as Lord and to share with others the good news that Jesus is Savior; that all who hear us may trust in your grace and receive new life; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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