

"TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN"
PHILIPPIANS 3:1-14

INTRO: Thirty years ago when we were seeking God's direction for what He wanted FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH to look like, the Lord led us to reduce our mission statement to what became our motto which is: **"TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN."** The ORIGINAL INTENT of that statement was that our commitment as individual members of FBC as well as that which drives all of our church ministries should be **TO GET TO KNOW CHRIST AND THEN TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TO OTHERS.** It was then that we decided to hang that motto above the choir loft so that every time we come into this sanctuary, we remind ourselves why we are here. This particular motto came from THE APOSTLE PAUL'S personal testimony in Philippians 3:10 where after he lists a number of his personal fleshly certifications which he had before he was saved that he counted as nothing but DUNG (Vs. 8). He stated that his goal in life was **TO KNOW CHRIST, AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BEING MADE CONFORMABLE UNTO HIS DEATH.** Paul's point in this text is that it is not the works of the flesh or religious activity that honors God, but rather it is the desire to get to know **CHRIST MORE AND DEVELOP AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM THAT HONORS GOD.** (NOTE VSS 4-9). If we as a church body are going to grow in our knowledge of Christ and then make Christ known to others, then **WE AS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS MUST ACCEPT AND APPLY THAT CONCEPT TO OUR PERSONAL LIVES.** **ANY LOCAL CHURCH WILL ONLY KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD TO THE DEGREE THAT THOSE WHO MAKE UP THAT CHURCH KNOW, LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD.** **THE FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF ALTOONA WILL ONLY GROW SPIRITUALLY TO BE AS CHRIST DESIRES IT TO BE AS WE AS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS GROW AS CHRIST DESIRES.** So, when we have concerns about the spiritual effectiveness of our congregation, perhaps we should look at ourselves first, as **WE ARE THE ONES WHO MAKE THE CHURCH TO BE WHAT IT IS.**

I. THE CHALLENGE TO KNOW CHRIST

NOTE: The word "KNOW" in our text is the Greek word "GINOSKO" that speaks of EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE rather than just having a KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST. This involves HAVING A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST THROUGH AN INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM DAILY.

A. By Knowing Christ as Savior – John 1:29; 14:6

TRUST CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR TODAY

B. By Knowing Christ as Lord – John 20:28; 1 Corinthians 8:6

YIELD TO CHRIST AS YOUR MASTER

C. By Knowing Christ as your Teacher – John 3:2; Matthew 4:23

LEARN FROM AND OBEY CHRIST AS YOUR TEACHER

D. By Knowing Christ as God – John 1:1; Titus 2:13

WORSHIP CHRIST AS YOUR GOD

NOTE: Verse 10 is a testimony of Paul's desire to know Christ in a very close and experiential way. **THIS SHOULD BE OUR DESIRE AS WELL.**

1) By a Personal Experience (10a) – **"THAT I MAY KNOW HIM."** Paul wanted to experience Christ in every aspect of His (Christ's) Life. **SO SHOULD WE.**

2) By a Powerful Experience (10b) - **"THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION."** Paul wanted to be empowered with the same power that brought Christ back from the dead. **SO SHOULD WE.**

3) By a Painful Experience – (10c) - **"THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS."** Paul had a desire to suffer for Christ – and he did. **SO SHOULD WE.**

4) By a Practical Experience (10d) – **"BEING MADE CONFORMABLE UNTO HIS DEATH."** Paul was willing to DIE TO HIMSELF and be totally surrendered to the will of Christ, even to the point of death – **SO SHOULD WE.**

5) By a Prospective Experience – (11) **"I MIGHT ATTAIN UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD."** Paul wanted to be faithful to Christ until the rapture. -**SO SHOULD WE.**

II. THE CHALLENGE TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN

NOTE For the Christian, making Christ known is:

- A Mandate – 2 Timothy 4:5; Proverbs 11:30
- A Joy – Psalm 126:5,6; 1 Thessalonians 2:19a
- A Reward – 1 Thessalonians 2:19b

- A. Accomplished through our personal testimony – 2 Corinthians 3:2
- B. Accomplished through our personal teaching – 2 Timothy 2:2
- C. Accomplished through our personal evangelism – 1 Corinthians 5:20

LESSON/APPLICATION

THIS CONCEPT IS ONE OF THE MOST PRACTICAL CONCEPTS FOR CHRISTIANS FOUND IN THE WORD OF GOD. WHY?

- 1) Because when applied, it makes us more like Christ in everything.
- 2) Because when applied, it impacts our daily living for Christ.
- 3) Because when applied, it leads us to be witnesses for Christ.
- 4) Because when applied, it makes our church what Christ desires it to be.

BUT IT BEGINS WITH OUR DESIRE TO DIE TO SELF, TO GROW IN CHRIST, AND TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WORD.

WILL YOU MAKE THE COMMITMENT TO KNOW CHRIST AND MAKE CHRIST KNOWN TODAY?