

“EXPERIENCING CHRIST - CHRIST OUR GOAL”

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14

TEXT: VERSE 10

INTRO: We have always been taught of the importance of setting goals in our life. Such is a good thing **AS LONG AS THE GOALS ARE LED OF THE LORD AND ACCOMPLISHED BY THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD.** But the **GREATEST GOAL OF EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE TO BE LIKE JESUS CHRIST.** To be like Christ was the **GOAL OF THE APOSTLE PAUL, AND IS TO BE THE DESIRE OF GOD FOR EACH OF HIS CHILDREN AND SHOULD BE OUR PERSONAL DESIRE.** **OUR GOAL IS TO BE LIKE CHRIST!** Let's study and follow the example of the Apostle Paul to **BE LIKE CHRIST.**

I. PAUL'S DESIRE WAS TO KNOW CHRIST – Vs. 10a

“THAT I MAY KNOW HIM.”

NOTE: Paul's **DESIRE** was to experience **CHRIST.** That is, to have a **DEEPER KNOWLEDGE AND INTIMACY WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** (Observe verse 8). This actually leads to **SUBMITTING TO THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST.**

- A. Be Certain to Know Christ as your Savior
- B. Be Committed to Know Christ as your Lord

QUESTION: **HOW DO WE GET THERE?** By Knowing that we Need Him

II. PAUL'S DESIRE WAS TO KNOW THE POWER OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION – Vs. 10b

“AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION”

NOTE: Paul's **DESIRE** was to experience the **POWER OF CHRIST** as seen in His Resurrection. **Christ's resurrection was the MOST GRAPHIC DEMONSTRATION** of His power over the physical and spiritual realm.

- A. The Physical
- B. The Spiritual

QUESTION: **HOW DO WE GET THERE?** By Realizing our Weakness

III. PAUL'S DESIRE TO KNOW THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST'S SUFFERING – Vs. 10c

“THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERING”

NOTE: Paul's **DESIRE** was to experience the **SUFFERING OF CHRIST** as seen on the Cross.

- A. This is a Part of the Christian's Life – 1 Peter 2:21-24
- B. This was a Part of Paul's life – 2 Corinthians 11:16-28

QUESTION: **HOW DO WE GET THERE?** By Understanding our Calling

IV. PAUL'S DESIRE WAS TO KNOW THE DEATH OF CHRIST – Vs. 10d

“BEING MADE CONFORMABLE UNTO DEATH.”

NOTE: Paul's **DESIRE** was to **DIE FOR CHRIST**

- A. Christ Died For Sinners – Romans 5:8
- B. Paul Died to Preach the Gospel to Sinners (67 AD) – 2 Timothy 4:7,8

QUESTION: **HOW DO WE GET THERE?** By Realizing our Purpose

THE MAIN TEACHING OF THIS PASSAGE IS FOR US TO DEVELOP A CLOSE INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST THAT WILL MAKE US MORE LIKE CHRIST.

HOW?

- 1) By Knowing Him as our Personal Savior
- 2) By Reading His Words in the Gospels
- 3) By Studying His Prayers
- 4) By Submitting to His Lordship
- 5) By Obeying His Word

CONCLUSION AND APPLICATION

The Goal of every true Christian should be to **BE LIKE CHRIST**

-Vs. 14

- The “Mark” is **CHRISTLIKENESS ON EARTH**
- The “Prize” is **CHRISTLIKENESS IN HEAVEN**