

**PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)**

**PROGRAM 20 (#912105)**

**WEEK 4 (#912321)**

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## ***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***

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**SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)**

**TITLE: Program 20 – Knowing Him**

### **FRIDAY**

### **OPEN**

If knowing Christ meant that you were going to suffer, if knowing Christ meant that you were going to have to discipline yourself, if knowing Christ meant you would have to say no to many things in your life? Then how important, Beloved, would knowing Christ be? What is that one thing in life that you want above all else? Is it knowing Christ?

### **PART ONE**

Paul, in Philippians chapter 3, said that he was a man of one thing, that there was one thing that he wanted out of life. And if I were to ask you, Precious One, what is that one thing that you want out of life? What is that driving force? What would your answer be? Well, as we look at Philippians chapter 3, the movie *The Chariots of Fire* come to mind. I don't know if you saw that awesome, awesome movie, but it was the true story of Eric Liddell. He was a Scotsman that felt like he was born to run. As a matter of fact, in that

movie one of my favorite scenes is when he's running on that track and he throws his head back and as his arms are in that motion of running you hear him say in his mind, "When I run I feel His pleasure." I want to ask you a question, Beloved. When you run, when you live life, do you feel God's pleasure? I can tell you this that if you can feel His pleasure then it doesn't matter whether you suffer. It doesn't matter whether you are rejected. It doesn't matter whether you attain the things that everyone in life says that you must attain to be happy or not. Because when you run and your goal is to press on towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus, then you can know this: you will feel God's pleasure. And there's nothing like the wind of His whisper at your back saying, "Run, faithful one, run." Let's look at what Paul has to say. Now in Philippians, chapter 3, in verse 8 he says, **"I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."** When he says, **"Christ Jesus my Lord,"** (Philippians 3:8a) what he's saying is, "He is my God. He is my Master. He is the One that dictates everything that my life is about. It's in Him that I live and move and have my being. I was born to serve my God." Remember when Paul opens this epistle to the church at Philippi he opens it up by describing himself and describing Timothy as a bondservant of Christ Jesus. In other words, I have made myself a voluntary servant of my God. Well this is what he's saying here. And he goes on to say, **"[For] the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."** Now watch, **"For whom I have suffered the loss of all things."** (Philippians 3:8b) Now it's one thing to suffer the loss of all things, and many times you meet people that have suffered and they have lost their loved ones, they have lost their home, they have lost their car, they have lost their health, they have lost their career. And you know they've lost it because all they can do is sit and weep and mourn and grieve. Maybe you're there. Maybe by divine appointment you're listening to this program, you're hearing these words that are words of God. And you have lost all things or you have lost what is dearest to you and you are absolutely miserable. Well, Precious One, God wants you to know that you

don't have to be miserable. Because if you can gain Christ, if you can know Christ, if you can press on towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus, what you have lost will mean absolutely nothing in comparison to knowing Christ. Watch what he says: **“For whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them but rubbish,”** count those things but rubbish, dung, as I told you, **“that I may gain Christ, and...be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law.”** He says, “[But that righteousness, which comes through faith in Christ] **the righteousness [that] comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him.**”

**(Philippians 3:8b-10a)** Now watch what he wants to do. He wants to know Him. He wants to have a knowledge of God. He wants to understand everything that he can about God, everything that he can about the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants to understand everything that he can about life in the Spirit. Do you have that driving force? Or do you just kind of ignore the Word of God? Do you go to church and go through the motions and you kind of live a good life and you compare yourself with others and you aren't doing so bad? But how do you do when you compare what you know about God and know about Christ with all that this book has to tell you. He says, **“That I may know Him,” (Philippians 3:10a)** and he wants to know the power of His resurrection. Now the power of His resurrection means this, it means this: Romans, chapter 6, **“that when Christ died on the cross you died with Him. When Christ was buried you were buried with Him. When Christ was raised to walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)** And it's in walking in that “newness of life” that Paul then says, **“And as I walk I press on towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:14)** This is why I love Eric Liddell's shot in that movie when he throws his head back. And as he throws his head back there's a smile on his face and this deep contentment, “When I run I feel His pleasure.” Well who is running? It is not him who that is running, but it is Christ in him. He is running in that resurrection power, in that newness of life. So when he says, “I want to know Him, and I want to know the power,

the errr, (engine sound) of His resurrection.” When we die with Christ, when we are buried with Christ, when we are raised to walk in newness of life, that newness of life is a resurrection life. And that newness of life means that now it is life in the Spirit. You have the Spirit inside of you. And the Spirit inside of you enables you to live in such a way that you don’t live for yourself, but you live for Him who died and rose again on your behalf. In other words, the power of His resurrection is that you have in you everything, all that power that brought Jesus Christ out of the tomb broke the bonds of death and gave Him a life that is eternal and a life that will never pass away. It is a newness of life, and that’s what he says I want to know. And you see if you’re a believer you died with Christ. If you’re a believer you were buried with Christ. If you are believer you were raised to walk in newness of life. And yet what are many of us doing? Many of us are just sitting down. In fact we’ve become couch potatoes in front of the television or you know in front of the sports or we’re sitting there, just vegetating when there’s a whole life, a resurrection life out there for you and me to live. And it’s a life to be run; it is a race to be run. There is a goal and you are not to sit there; you are to get up and you are to press on. You need to be a man, you need to be a woman and if you are a young child, listen, God has you listening because you have a tender heart towards God. You have a mother, you have a dad or you have grandmother or a grandfather that has tuned you into Jesus Christ. And what God is telling you is listen, you need to be a man, you need a woman, a guy, a gal of knowing Him and pressing on towards the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. Let’s look at it. Let’s go back to Philippians, chapter 3 now. In Philippians, chapter 3, listen carefully; he says, **“In order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”** **(Philippians 3:11)** Now some people think that that means attaining to heaven. Personally I think to, “attain to the resurrection from the dead,” means that I am going to be everything, absolutely, totally, completely, everything that God wants me to be as a child of God, to “attain to the resurrection from the dead,” I believe, means that I lay hold of everything

that is mine in Christ Jesus. My old life is gone. I am a new creature in Christ Jesus. I died with Christ. I was buried with Christ. I'm raised to walk in newness of life. Now I am going "to attain to the resurrection from the dead." I'm going to be God's man. I'm going to be God's woman. And listen to what he says, **"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on." (Philippians 3:12)** "I press on." I overextend myself. Do you know one thing that really keeps many people from pressing on? It's what lies behind. I mean we are so occupied with the past. We are so encumbered with our failures, with our memories, with our fears, with our inadequacies that we forget, once you come to know Jesus Christ it's no longer you that lives, it is Christ living in you. This is what it means "to attain to the resurrection from the dead." It means that you're living in this new power. And so what Paul goes on to say and this is very, very important. In verse 12, ["Not that I have already obtained it, [to this resurrection from the dead, not that I'm already perfect, not that I'm already, just everything that I ought to be. He says, Or I have already become perfect, but I press on." ] (Paraphrase Philippians 3:12) Now you want to mark press; it's used twice here. **"I press on so that,"** I have a purpose. **"So that I may lay hold of that for which...I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 3:12) What does that mean? We'll talk about it right after the break.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back beloved. Your life has a purpose. I mean God did not just save you for you to live for yourself. God saved you and united you in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ so that you might be a new creature in Christ Jesus, so that old things might pass away, so that all things might become new, and so that you might manifest to the world what it means to be united in Christ, to have Christ in you and now live a brand new life. So they can see hey, that's what you used be, but that ain't what you are

now, because you're a brand new creature in Christ Jesus. So what he says is this, **"I press on...that I may lay hold of that for which...I was laid hold of Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 3:12) In other words, I want to know Him. I want to know the fellowship of His sufferings. I'm willing to suffer with Jesus Christ. I am willing, and the word fellowship, from the word koinonia in the Greek means two fellows in the same ship. In other words, you're sharing in common. So what he's saying is, "I want to share in common with Christ in the fellowship of His sufferings. I don't want to get to heaven and get there with flowery of beds of ease when my Savior suffered. I want to identify in His life. I want to identify in His sufferings. I want to be willing to suffer." So he goes on to say, **"Brethren,"** in verse 13, **"I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet."** (Philippians 3:13) Laid of what? **"The resurrection from the dead."** (Philippians 3:11) And this is why I do not believe that he is talking about heaven and everything that he's talking about. I think he's talking about this errrrr, (engine sound) this resurrection, this powerful life, this life in the Spirit where I am united with Christ and where I know where I'm going and why I'm living and I'm pressing on. So he says, **"Brethren, [I] do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do,"** and I put a red cloud around it and I colored it purple. **"One thing I do,"** he says, **"Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 3:13-14) He says, "I am pressing on." He says, "I'm forgetting what's behind." This is very key. "And I'm pressing on." In the movie, Chariots of Fire there was a Jewish guy by the name of Abrahams, and Abrahams had a passion just like Eric Liddell and that was to run and that was to be the very best. And really they were competitors. And he hired the very top coach that there was. And what this coach did and this was years, this coach had this old camera and so what he did as he filmed Abrahams in this race, but in that movie it shows him, the coach showing him this movie of himself running the race, and he just misses that race just by a second. And this is what he

tells him. “Watch yourself.” And he says, “Do you see that look cost you the race?” And the look was, when he took his eyes off of the goal that was before him and he looked at the one that was running beside him to see how the other person was doing. And he says, “That was the look that cost you the race.” If you and I are going to attain to this resurrection from the dead, if you and I are going to know Christ in the power of His resurrection, in the fellowship of His sufferings, and we are going to be made conformable unto His death, if we’re going to get that prize, that wreath of the victors crown, if we’re going to get it, then this is what you have to do: you have to keep your eyes on the goal. And you know the thing that’s going to keep you from keeping your eyes on the goal is things? The things of this life. I love that song, “When the things of life grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face.” That is where your eyes are to be. That is your goal. That is the one thing. Now one thing is only used two other places in the Scripture. It is used in Psalm 27, verse 4 where David says, [“This is the one thing that I have desired of the Lord. This is the one thing that I am seeking after, and that is to dwell in the beauty of His temple forever and ever.”] (Paraphrase, Psalm 27:4) In other words, I just want to be in His presence. And the way that you and I are in His presence in this life is to be in this Book, because these are holy words; these are the words of God. In Luke, chapter 10, in verse 39 and 42, when Jesus goes to visit Mary and Martha, and Martha’s all hustling around and she’s busy and she says, [Tell her to get up and tell her to come and help me.] And He says, **“O Martha, Martha, you are troubled.”** Distracted is what the word means, **“And anxious about many things, but one thing is needful and Mary has chosen the better part, and it will never be taken away from her.”** (Luke 10:41-42) **“Pressing on towards the...prize of the [high] calling...in Christ Jesus.”** (Philippians 3:14) Beloved, this is the one thing that needs to be the dominating thing of your life. And it’s all wrapped up in a person. When you go through Philippians and you mark the key word, Jesus is mentioned more than any other person in the book of

Philippians, more than any other word. Why? Because life is all about Christ. He is our goal. And everything in life is nothing in comparison to the surpassing value of knowing Him. So what is God's exhortation to you today? Beloved, it is press on. Now, I want you to see in verse 14 when he says, **"I press on [for] the goal for the prize,"** now watch this, **"of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 3:14) It's an upward call. In other words, it is a call that keeps taking you up and up and up to life on a higher plane and a higher plane and a higher plane. And if you're going to make that ascent to Christ-likeness to understanding and **"[attaining] to the resurrection from the dead,"** to being everything that God has ordained for you to be, to fulfilling God's purpose, His divine unique purpose through you because of the past that you've been through because of the sufferings that you have partaken of because of the experiences and the education and the talents and the gifts that God has given you. If you're going to attain to that, Beloved, then you have to see that more and more, as you go on that upward call. What happens is more and more you leave the things of this earth behind, I mean, they're not as important anymore. And they're not as important anymore because you want to know Him, because you want to know the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, and so you live life on a higher plane. And what happens is you live it on a higher plane and a higher plane and then on a highest plane. Beloved, bring discipline into your life. Lay aside every weight, every sin, every encumbrance that keeps you from running the race that is set before you. And as Hebrews tells you put your eyes on Christ Jesus. Don't take them off. And just in every situation of life, just stop and say, "You're there Lord, You're there. It's for You Lord. It's for You that I'm going to keep my mouth shut. It's for You that I'm going to turn off the TV. It's for You that I'm going to get into Your Word."