

16 Philippians 3:7-12

The Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ

1. Phil 3:7

- a. A new section starts: “approving things that are excellent” (remember Phil 1:9-11)
- b. Paul explains to them what it means to approve things excellent in Phil 3:7-8
- c. The things that we gain are the things you pile up at the end of your life
- d. It is simple for a zealous new convert to count things loss, but Paul is not new
- e. It is a spiritual calculation to count all those things loss, it is a reckoning – Rom 6:11
- f. The principle was commanded by the Lord in Luke 12:33 and Matt 19:21, Mark 8:36
- g. Adam had the same choice between all he had, and all the Lord gave him, so do we
- h. This is an accounting not a “sell all” command, it evaluates which is more excellent

2. Phil 3:8

- a. The thing that is excellent: the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord
- b. Knowledge – not a feeling, doing good in his name, loving him, helping others
- c. Faith is knowing the truth – it comes by hearing the word of God
- d. “*my Lord: for whom...*” – which is the reason for Paul’s trial - Acts 9:15-16
- e. Paul knows that Jesus is both Christ and Lord... 2 Cor 11:22-31
- f. “*dung*” – is not simply a loss, but something to be cast away, discarded, avoided
- g. Something has changed in Paul’s mind → He witnessed the glorified Christ
- h. “*that I may win Christ*” – you win a prize, it is not something earned.

3. Phil 3:9

- a. Christ is not only the Son of God, but the only means of righteousness
- b. His position, his platform, his place is in Christ – not in the house Paul built.
- c. Sins is not the issue here, but Paul’s righteousness which is now nothing
- d. “*your righteousness*” - Deu 6:23, Rom 10:1-4; now vain - Deu 32:47 vs 1 Tim 1:6-7
- e. Paul said he was righteous in the law – Phil 3:6, but it is nothing.
- f. The law, your flesh, is not the means of righteousness – Rom 3:20-22, Gal 2:21, 3:19
- g. “*the faith of Christ*” – The message concerning Christ – 2 Cor 5:21, Gal 2:16
 - i. Christ did not need faith, he was God, he was the Truth – John 1:14, 17, 14:1
- h. Faith has no merit on its own, it is the object of faith that brings merit.
- i. We were saved by grace through faith, and we should also walk that way – Col 2:6

4. Phil 3:10-12

- a. “*I may know him*” – He wants to know his work, death, life, glorification – Rom 8:29
- b. Peter witnessed his sufferings – 1 Pet 5:1, Paul witnessed his glorification
- c. “*power of his resurrection*” – To know this you have to die – Eph 1:19, 3:21; Rom 6:3-5
- d. “*fellowship of his sufferings*” – Paul was apprehended to suffer for others – Col 1:24
- e. Paul wants to possess Christ in glory “by any means” – Phil 1:20
- f. “*conformable unto death*” – Paul was ready to die, and for him that is gain