



*“Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers,
those mutilators of the flesh.”*

PHILIPPIANS 3:2

In the theology of the Judaizers, salvation required conformity to Jewish rituals, especially the rite of circumcision.

“Mutilators of the Flesh”

Those who falsely teach that works are the **means** to salvation, not the **result** of salvation.



“As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!”

GALATIANS 5:12

Using any religious act to feel good — or to be good — before God is *abhorrent* to God.



“For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit, who glory in Jesus, who put no confidence in the flesh...”

PHILIPPIANS 3:3

True righteousness is pursuing Jesus out of relationship, not rules.



“Though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

PHILIPPIANS 3:4

PHILIPPIANS 3:4

Circumcised on the 8th day – *Rituals*

Of the people of Israel – *Race*

Of the tribe of Benjamin – *Rank*

A Hebrew of Hebrews – *Reputation*

A Pharisee – *Rules*



“As for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:6

Paul is depending on **passion** and **perfectionism** to impress God.

He had climbed the ladder of spiritual success, only to find that at the top, that ladder was leaning against the wrong wall.



“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.
What is more...”

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-8

*Literally,
“but indeed therefore at least even!”*



“What is more I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-9

“Rubbish”

Greek — Skubalon:
waste, or manure; specifically,
human excrement.



“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11

“To Know”

Greek — Gnonai (Gnosis):
Transcendent communion with Christ

Hebrew — Yada:
An intimate knowledge or a love bond

*A euphemism for sexual intercourse;
God’s intimate love bond with Israel.*

Yada — Gnosis



“You only have I known of all the families on earth.”

AMOS 3:2

True righteousness comes as a result of an intimate, love-bond relationship with Jesus.

To *Know* Christ

“And the power of his resurrection.”

Not just to be raised from the dead *some* day, but to have the sin-killing power of the resurrection *this* day! (see Rom. 8:11)

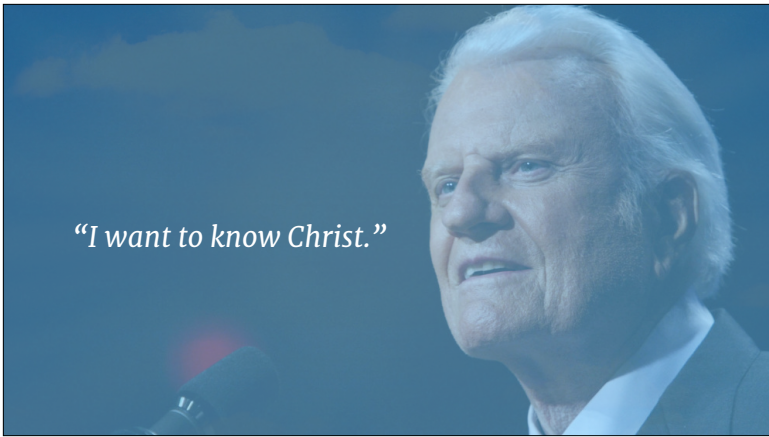
To *Know* Christ

“And the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”

To embrace suffering, and find Jesus there, being conformed to his image through it.

“And somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

Not a statement of doubt, but of humble gratitude to God for the grace of knowing Christ.



"I want to know Christ."



MY LIFE MISSION

To know Jesus!

Every other pursuit will be a distant second.



PART 6

MY LIFE MISSION
