

## Philippians 3:1-16, “Up Close and Personal”

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### Introduction:

1. Philippi was far away from Rome geographically, but its culture was fully Roman
2. The Philippian Christians had chosen a new identity and citizenship
3. This new identity would cause them a lot of problems

**The first conflict the call of Christ brings is the conflict within.**

**I. By accepting the grace of Christ Paul had to reject the identity that defined him**

- A. Paul was warning against those who preached that we had to earn part of our salvation. 3:1-3
- B. When Paul embraced the teaching that salvation comes only through the work of Christ, he had to reject his beliefs and life’s work 3:4-6



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**II. Paul considered all his accomplishments as crap compared to his new life in Christ. 3:7-9**

**III. The primary goal of Paul's life is to know Jesus. 3:10-11**

- A. The word know is an intimate term.
- B. Paul refers to Christ Jesus as "my Lord." (This is the only place in Scripture where Paul uses this term.)

*"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17:3*

The Bible always wants us to link intellectual knowledge of God with experiential knowledge of God

*"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:12-14*

*"I know whom I have believed." The Apostle Paul to Timothy, 2 Timothy 1:12.*

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