

Scripture: **Philippians 3**
Singing: **183:1-4 – 71:1, 3, 5 – 203:1-3 – 451:2, 3**

Let's Study Philippians (25)

THE HUNGER OF THE LIVING SOUL I. To know Christ II. To live Christ

I. The hunger of the living soul is to know Christ

A. Paul's petition seems mysterious, yet it is the experience of 'real lovers'

1. Biblical meaning of to 'know' (Gen. 4:1; Amos 3:2)

2. This hunger is the sign of healthy spiritual life

B. What did Paul mean with this desire to *know Him*?

1. Not merely *intellectual facts* about the glorious Person of Jesus Christ

2. But more an *experiential tasting or experiencing* of His amazing love and grace

II. The hunger of the living soul is to live Christ

A. Real love is NOT content to *experience love* but to *live love*

1. Define **real love**:

2. Paul wanted to be like Christ in His living love to God and neighbors

B. The pathway to be like Christ is two-fold

1st **to know the power of His resurrection**

a. to 'know' includes *to know the facts and fruits of Jesus' resurrection*

b. yet here it means mostly to *experience the power of Jesus' resurrection*

2nd to have fellowship Christ's sufferings (vs. 10b, 11)

a. this is God's way to *become like Christ* (Acts 14:22; Rom. 8:28-29)

b. God is free to use *any means* to bring us there (vs. 11)

Closing Applications

A. How few Christians are Christians like Paul!

1. Many are keen to *wear Jesus's crown* but not to *share His cross* (Phil. 3:18-19)

2. Reflect upon yourself then in light of Christ's life as seen in Paul's life

B. Though not easy, no life is more beautiful and satisfying than a holy life

1. Holiness is its own reward (Thomas Brooks)

a. Gal. 6:7-8 “... *if we sow to the Spirit, we shall of the Spirit reap everlasting life*’

b. 1 Tim. 6:1 ... *but godliness with contentment is great gain!*

THOUGHTS ON CHRISTLIKENESS

The most deeply felt obligation on earth is that which the Christian feels:
to imitate his or her Redeemer. (Albert Barnes)

None can know their election but by their conformity to Christ:
for all that are chosen are chosen to sanctification. (M. Henry)

It is not great talents that God blesses so much
as great likeness to Jesus. (R. M M'Cheyne)

Our lives should be as many sermons about Jesus. (John Trapp)

If you are in Christ, and Christ is in you, then the world should see Him and
hopefully not much else.