

Knowing About vs. Knowing

*These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of **knowing** Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. The righteousness that I have comes from **knowing** Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead. (Philippians 3:7-10, CEB)*

Is there a difference between knowing **about** someone and knowing someone? I think there is. You could read about me and I could read about you, but that doesn't make for much of a relationship, does it? If I know **about** someone, I learn facts and figures that describe them, perhaps even stories about their lives. But, you know what? I can do that without ever meeting such a person. There are times when I've gone onto a site like Wikipedia to learn about an athlete, actor, musician, or TV personality that I've not heard of before. Would it be different if I met that person face to face and got to know them? You bet it would! I wouldn't just know things **about** them - I'd actually be getting to know them.

This Sunday in our worship gatherings, we will continue talking about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Last week, we explored what it means to live **A Life of Hospitality**, as we seek to commit to being part of the Body of Christ. This Sunday, our topic centers around living **A Life of Worship**. Disciples view worship as an everyday lifestyle, rather than just an event they show up for from time to time.

My prayer is that our worship gatherings will be times when we learn **about** Jesus, yes, but even more so, times when we come to know Jesus in real, authentic relationship. I pray that we would encounter the person of Jesus in such a way that it would inspire us to want to know him more and more each and every day, as Paul explains to the Philippians in his letter to them. I pray that we would not only make space to worship Jesus with others in community gatherings, but also worship Jesus on our own in our private times of prayer, Scripture reading, and meditation. Let's not settle for knowing **about** Jesus, when we have the opportunity to know him and be found in him as our Risen Lord.

In Christ Alone,

Pastor David Rittgers