

## Relationship Not Religion

I believe there comes a time in the life of every believer when their desire to know God grows deeper and deeper in their hearts. It has always been God's will that His people would have a deep/intimate relationship with Him. The Apostle Paul deals with this very issue in Philippians chapter three.

Philippians 3:10-11, *"I want to know Christ in the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in His suffering, and so somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."*

In chapter one Paul deals with his present circumstances; in chapter two, he appeals to us as believers to have the mind of Christ; in three he desires to have the knowledge of Christ.

Paul says in 3:10, "I want to know," but what does he want to know that he has not already been taught? We know that Paul was very educated in the Word of God. However, Paul came to realize that knowledge can only take you so far. It was a deep and sincere relationship with Christ Paul that he had come to desire.

Definition: Know - To know, come to know, gain or receive knowledge, it also can mean to be known or distinguished.

We were created to have a relationship with God.

In Genesis 3:7-10 God came down in the cool of the day and called to Adam, but because of sin Adam hid and was unable to respond. Sin cannot separate us from the love of God. However, as it did with Adam, sin can block the interactive relationship that God wants to have with us.

There are adjustments that we must be willing to make in our lives in order to move into a deeper relationship with God.

- (1) We must be willing to make sacrifices.
- (2) We must be willing to increase your desire to know God.
- (3) We must be devoted to a life of prayer.
- (4) We must learn to be sensitive to the voice of God.
- (5) We must be willing to praise and worship God.
- (6) We must be willing to study and meditate on the Word of God.