

# GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 31, 2023  
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## SERMON OUTLINE

### KNOWING JESUS CHRIST MY LORD

PHILIPPIANS 3:7-11  
REV. LITO VILLORIA

Our main pursuit every year should be to know Jesus Christ, our Lord, in a deeper and more intimate way. Jesus Christ was born on Christmas to give up His all at the Cross for our salvation. He is God's indescribable gift to mankind. And in response to this greatest expression of God's love, it is appropriate for us to make it our goal to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus every year.

Knowing Jesus Christ, his Lord, was the most valuable thing for

the Apostle Paul. In fact, Paul considered everything he had in life as garbage compared to knowing Christ. He was already in Christ, knowing Him as His Savior and Lord, but declared that he wanted to know Him deeper and in a more intimate way.

Pertaining to his associations and accomplishments, Paul had great privileges as a Jew. He was a beneficiary of God's covenant being circumcised on the eighth day. He was an Israelite which is God's chosen race. He was a Benjamite, the tribe where Israel's first king came from. He was a Hebrew who spoke the language of his people. He was a Pharisee who observed the law faithfully and persecuted the church passionately (Philippians 3:4-6).

Paul had all the reasons to boast about his life and be

confident in himself. But he considered his associations and accomplishments garbage compared to knowing Christ. For him, knowing Jesus is the most important thing above all else (Philippians 3:7-11).

There is nothing inherently wrong with our affluence, abilities, associations, accomplishments, and appearance. But if they became our main pursuit, they could wrongfully take the rightful place of Christ in our lives. As 2023 comes to a close this evening, we need to reorient our minds and recalibrate our hearts to keep knowing Jesus as our main pursuit in 2024. In this sermon, we will learn five essential things to keep knowing Christ deeper and in a more intimate way. ✨

### GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN YOU

REV. LITO VILLORIA

As you look back at 2023 and look forward to 2024, be confident that God has not forgotten you and He will never forget you. During moments of pain, pressure, and problems the past year, God's presence has never left you. At times, you may have not sensed it, but the reality is that God has not forsaken you and He will never forget you.

When the conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders reached its peak, Jesus exhorted His disciples not to fear men. These men could kill the body but not the spirit. Instead, the disciples should fear God who has the authority to cast people into hell. Then, Jesus assured His disciples that God would surely take care of them because they were valuable in His sight.

The Lord Jesus Christ said to His disciples, "Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God" (Luke 12:6). The sparrows have very little worth. Five sparrows are sold for two pennies. Pennies are the least valuable in Roman coinage, yet not one of them is forgotten by God.

And if God looks after the welfare of these birds, how much more will He take care of His

## PARSON TO PERSON

people? Jesus said, "Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, you are of more value than many sparrows" (Luke 12:7). If God knows the number of their hairs, it is an assurance that He knows every detail of their life. God knows everything that happened yesterday, what is happening today, and what will happen tomorrow. Therefore, there is no reason for them to fear because they are precious in God's sight.

This coming 2024, be confident of three divine assurances that should crowd out any fear out of your heart. First, God minds you constantly. God will never keep His eyes off you. He looks after you every moment. Second, God knows you intimately. God will never ignore your burdens. He listens to your every concern. And third, God cares for you deeply. God will never leave nor forsake you. He sees through everyone who rests in His presence. Whenever you are discouraged, remember God is there to lift you up.

In light of these realities, I encourage you to cast all your fears, worries, and anxieties to God because He will never forget you. Do not let the enemy rob you of the joy of being in Christ. Do not get paralyzed by problems. But, instead, keep yourself involved in our mission to love God, to love people, and to make multiplying disciples.

As we take part in our thrust this coming year to "Each One, Disciple One," we need to be reminded about the essence of authentic discipleship and intentional discipling. Thus, we will begin 2024 with a sermon series on Authentic Discipleship and Intentional Discipling. In this five-part sermon series, we will distinguish discipleship and discipling. Discipling pertains to our walk with Jesus. Discipling pertains to our work for Jesus.

Discipleship has five crucial components which we will learn in the next five Sundays: (1) knowing Jesus, (2) loving Jesus, (3) abiding in Jesus, (4) serving Jesus, and (5) proclaiming Jesus. On the other hand, discipling is guiding another person to know Jesus, love Jesus, abide in Jesus, serve Jesus, and proclaim Jesus. May this sermon series give us clarity about the meaning of discipleship and the courage to be involved in discipling.

May 2024 be a year when we all continue to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus as we keep directing people to Him for the building up of His church and the glory of His Name! A Happy and Blessed New Year to you and your loved ones! ✨

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