

OUTLINE & SUMMARY

Introduction

The Apostle Paul shares his personal ambition and goal - To know Jesus *personally & intimately*. He longs to enter into the experience of all that being saved means.

Verse 10-11 • After saying what he was *not* centering his life on in vs. 7-9, Paul describes what He *was* centering it on - Knowing Jesus; deeply, personally, & experientially. Paul applies to himself what he'd called the Philippians to in ch 2:5-8. This parallels what he wrote the Galatians in 2:20.

Verse 12 • Paul begins to reveal his chief ambition; to enter into a complete experience of what Jesus saved him for. He admits he's not there yet, but is determined to achieve it.

Verses 13-14 • Paul spells out his goal. There are two things he has to do to pursue it; 1) Forget what's behind, 2) Reach forward to what's ahead.

Verses 15-16 • Paul appeals here to the spiritually mature and calls them to follow his example. He challenges them to look back at how far they've come, then determine to *double that* in the days ahead.

FOR THE GROUP

Introduction

Do you set goals? If so, how?
Are they written down or kept in memory?
Why is having goals important? What steps ought you take to ensure you make progress toward your goals?

Read Gal 2:20 as insight into what Paul means in vs. 10 & 11 then discuss with your group what Paul means here. What does Paul mean by knowing Christ *experientially*? (**HINT**: Paul couldn't "know" Jesus as the original disciples knew Him because He wasn't around like that now. How *was* Jesus still "around?" This is where Gal 2:20 is a key to unpacking vs. 10-11)

Paul intends this to be an encouragement to us. Have a frank discussion about your impressions of Paul from his letters. How do *you* see him? How does he appear to *want* to be regarded from what we read here?

What does Paul say he is pressing *toward*?
What does that mean?

What **IS** Paul's goal? What does that mean?
What does Paul mean by "forgetting what's behind" and why is putting the past behind us essential to making real progress in our walk?
WHAT needs to be put behind us?
What is "ahead" for Paul and us?
How can we "reach forward" for it?

Though it may be difficult to project, what would doubling your past spiritual growth look like? How different would you be? Describe some specific traits, habits, behaviors, attitudes doubling your current growth in grace and truth would mean.