



Pastor Bob Hoekstra

**A Personal Message
From
Pastor Bob Hoekstra, Director
INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY**

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IPM Website: www.chaplainray.com



Founders:
Chaplain Ray & Leola Hoekstra

October, 2009

Dear Friends of IPM,

The Lord reveals in His word that the highest priority in all of life is "getting to know God." *"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord..."* (Philippians 3:8a). Our appreciation gift this month for our ministry partners is a two-CD audio album, entitled: "Knowing God."

The key phrase in these studies (which the Lord enabled me to develop some time ago) is "the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." These words clearly indicate that "knowing the Lord" is the primary issue for our lives. This phrase could be rendered *"the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."* There are so many issues that pertain to our lives. Many of them are very valuable (such as, family and church, prayer and service, honesty and diligence, etc.). However, this issue ("knowing the Lord") is "the surpassing value." It is the highest priority in life.

Knowing God is much more than merely knowing about God. It is more than simply accumulating accurate information concerning the Lord (as important as that is). Knowing God is about growing in a personal relationship with Him. It involves engaging in an ongoing development of an intimate friendship with the Lord.

It is not surprising that Paul was willing to lay aside every competing issue of life in order to gain this ultimate treasure. *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but*

(over please)

loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (verses 7-8).

It is no wonder that Paul set his heart and mind fully on this highest possible goal. "That I may know him . . . one thing I do" (verses 10 and 13). This single-minded perspective was the same heart for God that David demonstrated. "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple" (Psalm 27:4).

This was the same message that Jesus taught, when He was here upon this earth. "But one thing is needful" (Luke 10:42a). Jesus declared that Mary exemplified this truth. "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her . . . Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word" (Luke 10:42 and 39). Mary was fully focused upon Jesus, receiving every word that proceeded from His mouth -- eagerly getting to know her Lord!

At IPM, we want to embrace and live out this high calling of getting to know God. We want to assist you in a similar quest. And we want to be used of the Lord in helping multitudes of inmates to get into God's word in order to get more and more acquainted with Him. We praise the Lord for your prayers and participation.

Getting Out God's Word so that He may be Known,

Bob Hoekstra

Pastor Bob Hoekstra

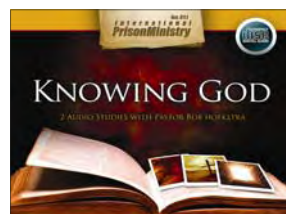
(for all of our "Chaplain Ray Family" and the IPM Team)

P. S. Remember, our appreciation gift for this month is Knowing God, a two-CD audio album.

P.P.S. Please pray for our "Forgotten Prisoners Christmas Project."



Used of the
Lord to help
prisoners know
God through
His WORD



KNOWING GOD

2 Audio Studies with Pastor Bob Hoekstra (Philippians 3:2-14)

Part 1: LIFE'S HIGHEST PRIORITY

(Philippians 3:2-9)

Authenticating Marks of Knowing the Lord

(Phil. 3:2-3)

- ◆ "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation"
- ◆ "For we are the circumcision"
- ◆ "who worship God in the Spirit"
- ◆ "rejoice in Christ Jesus"
- ◆ "and have no confidence in the flesh"

Confidence in the Flesh

(Phil. 3:4-6)

- ◆ "though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so"
- ◆ "circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, concerning the law, a Pharisee"
- ◆ "concerning zeal, persecuting the church, concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless"

The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ (Phil. 3:7-8)

- ◆ "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ"
- ◆ "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excel-

Part 2: PRESSING ON TO KNOW THE LORD

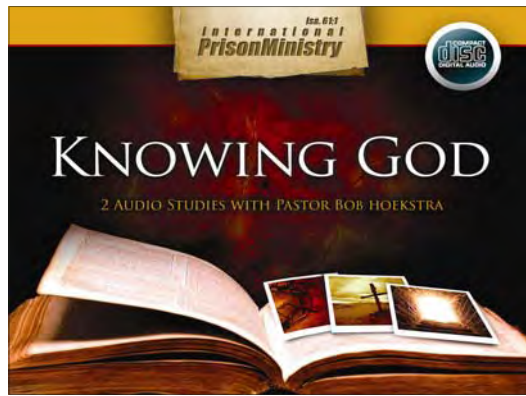
(Philippians 3:10-14)

Three Aspects of Knowing God (Phil. 3:10)

- ◆ "that I may know Him"
- ◆ "and the power of His resurrection"
- ◆ "and the fellowship of His sufferings"
- ◆ "being conformed to His death"

Resurrected Living (Phil. 3:11)

- ◆ "if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead"



lence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ"

Righteousness from God (Phil. 3:9)

- ◆ "and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith"

Not Fully Arrived (Phil. 3:12)

- ◆ "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me"

Single Focus (Phil. 3:13)

- ◆ "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead"

Pressing toward the Goal

(Phil. 3:14)

- ◆ "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"

Praise the Lord for your sharing.

Yes, Send Gift:
2 CD Study Album

Knowing God

With Pastor Bob Hoekstra

CD 1: Life's Highest Priority
(Philippians 3:2-9)

CD 2: Pressing on to Know
the Lord (Philippians 3:10-14)

It is the policy of I.P.M. to use each gift as it is designated by the donor. If any project is completed, any surplus will be used where it is needed most.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON MINISTRY
Website: www.chaplainray.com

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

Dear Pastor Bob, My gift to help prisoners to know Jesus as the highest priority of their life.

Use this gift for *Bibles For Prisoners*\$ _____

"Forgotten Prisoners Christmas Project"\$ _____

Bibles and Books for Russia & India Prisons ...\$ _____

Use My Offering *Where Needed Most*.....\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Mail to: *International Prison Ministry, P.O. Box 2868, Costa Mesa, CA 92628*



Thank you for Not Forgetting Me!

Dear Pastor Bob, The Parole Board has graciously given me my parole! Isn't that wonderful! I'm sending you another drawing that I have entitled "Prison Life: Out of Sight, Out of Mind." I hope you enjoy it. I would like to thank you from the very bottom of my heart for not forgetting about me and continuing to stay in touch with me. It means the absolute world to me! Also, I thank you for the books that you have sent to

me because they have certainly helped me to walk closer with the Lord. I feel extremely blessed to have been given the opportunity to correspond with you. Your letters have been such an inspiration to me. Please continue to take very good care of yourself. May God bless you in all your endeavors.

Rafael M., Pennsylvania Prison

For over a year, IPM wrote to Rafael. We sent him a Bible, Bible Dictionary/Concordance, five testimony books, a Bible Study Book, and the Bible Promise Book. We typically send two or three books at a time when an inmate writes to us. Thanks to our partners, Rafael was not forgotten.

The Lord Sees Me as His Free Man.

Dear Pastor Bob, Thank you for responding to my letter. The letter and kind words of love and support were greatly needed and well-received. The Lord is good to me all of the time.

It is such a blessing to know that the love of Jesus is not just for the "important" people but for all people. I know there are some people in the world today who believe that prisoners have no value, not worthy of love or forgiveness. I hear it and see it everyday. Dreams are crushed, hope and faith are constantly under attack. But I also see the Lord at work! Jesus Christ saved me and now I live my life for Him. Although many see me as a prisoner, the Lord sees me as His free man -- His child -- His vessel. This is not a prison but a mission field -- many have not heard -- many more need to be reminded -- so many are lost -- only Christ can save them. His love and mercy must be shared with the lost!

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to me and for praying for me. *Daniel N., Ohio Prison*

I Decided to Give It All Up to God.

Dear Pastor Bob, I am very happy to have received your response, and I am very anxiously awaiting the Bible that was sent. It will help out tremendously with my studies. I thank you so very much for taking the time to consider my letter and responding also.

The things of this world have brought me to my knees and nothing I do helps or works to get my life back on track. So I finally have decided to give it all up to God. I am willing, wanting Him to lead. I have opened up my heart and pray for guidance. I understand that only through God's Grace will I accomplish this. God bless.

Aaron S., California Prison

"Forgotten Prisoners Christmas Project"

Our "Forgotten Prisoners Christmas Project" is **underway** and your **prayers** are **greatly appreciated**.

Cut Along Dotted Line & Mail

Message or Prayer Request for IPM:
