

# The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ Jesus My Lord

Philippians 3:8-11

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## Introduction

The apostle Paul's Conversion from Judaism to faith in Christ is recorded for us in Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-16; 26:4-18.

Philippians 3:4-8 gives us a look at Paul's evaluation of his former life as a Pharisee in contrast to his conversion to faith in Christ which resulted in his transformation from a persecutor of the Church to a passionate follower of Christ.

Philippians 3:9-11 lays out for us the foundation of, not only Paul's, but all believers', hope of being In a right relationship with God and what it means to be a follower of Christ.

I think the key to understanding our passage today is found in the phrase, "in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord" in verse 8.

Remember, Paul previously placed "his confidence in the flesh". We see this confidence laid out for us in verses 5-6. But when Paul came to know Jesus Christ as Lord, his whole life changed. (Acts 9)

What he once thought was gain as a Pharisee, is now considered loss for the sake of Christ (vv.7-8).

## Paul's Evaluation of His Life before and after Faith in Christ (vv. 7-8)

### Paul's Old Life

Whatever things were gain (v. 7)

Those things I have counted loss (v. 7)

I count all things loss (v.8)

I have suffered the loss of all things (v. 8) so that I may gain Christ (v. 8)

I count them but rubbish (v. 8)

Not having a righteousness of my own (v. 9) that I may know Him (v. 10)

### Summary

Rubbish – refuse, excrement, dung

### Paul's New Life

for the sake of Christ (v.7)

for the surpassing value of...Christ (v. 8)

and be found in Him (v. 9)

### Summary

the surpassing value of knowing Christ

**Union with Christ** – Ephesians 1:3-14

**The surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord is seen and experienced through Salvation/Justification (v.9)**

**not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law,**

(see 3:5-6)

The Law was never meant to be a means for us to earn our salvation.

The Law makes us aware of our sin.

Romans 3:19-20; 5:20-21; 7:7-13; Gal. 2:21; 3:19-26

Isa. 64:6 - For all of us have become like one who is unclean,  
 And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment;  
 And all of us wither like a leaf,  
 And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

James 2:10-11

Galatians 3:10

**but that which is through faith in Christ,**

**the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,**

Rom. 3:21-26

Rom. 8:1-4 1Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

2 Cor. 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Justification - sinners are declared to be not guilty and declared righteous before God by faith in Jesus Christ**

**Imputation** - Imputed righteousness is the righteousness of Jesus credited to the Christian, enabling the Christian to be justified and the imputation of one's sin to Christ and then of His righteousness to us.

**The surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord is seen and experienced through Sanctification (v. 10)**

**1 Cor. 1:30** - But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

**1 Cor. 6:9-11** - **9**Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, **10**nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. **11**Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

**Sanctification – to be set apart to God for His purpose and glory. To grow in our likeness of Him and relationship with Him. (Eph. 1:4; Rom. 8:29)**

**<sup>10</sup>that I may know Him**

The goal of the Christian life is to know Christ not just know about Christ.

**John 14:7-9** - **7**“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.”

**8**Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” **9**Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

**John 17:3** - This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

and the power of His resurrection

Ephesians 1:15-21

Romans 6:1-11

Colossians 1:29

and the fellowship of His sufferings,

being conformed to His death;

Acts 5:41; Colossians 1:24

1 Peter 2:18-25; 3:14-4:2; 4:12-19

Mark 8:34 - And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Phil. 2:6-8

**The surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord is seen and experienced through Glorification (v. 11)**

<sup>11</sup>in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Resurrection

1 Cor. 15:50-58

1 Thess. 4:13-18

1 Pet. 1:3-5

**Application:**

1. Salvation/Justification – What are you trusting in for that day when you must give an account before God?

2. Sanctification – Is the goal of your life to know Christ? Do you see the surpassing value of knowing Christ?

3. Glorification –What is your hope? The truth of the resurrection is motive for perseverance in serving the Lord.