

Philippians 3:8-12

Sacred Ambition

From loss ...

I. Ultimate Gain

- A. Knowing Christ
 - 1. His Resurrection
 - 2. His Suffering
- B. Like Him in Death

II. Sacred Ambition

- A. Attaining Resurrection
- B. Intimate Union
- C. Heartfelt Endeavor
- D. Assured Hope

III. Our Blessed Paradox

- A. Abundant Living
- B. Sanctified Dying
- C. Assuredly Trusting
- D. Patiently Anticipating

... to glory.

Children, Listen ...

1. How are we made alive in Christ now?
2. Who does Paul say he belongs to? V. 12
3. Are people who trust in Jesus made perfect yet?
4. How can we have sure hope that we will be in Heaven with the Lord?

Sacred Ambition

Paul was ambitious by nature – but his highest ambition was shaped by grace. Once he was captivated by Christ he counted everything else as loss. The bad stuff was left on the dung heap – the good stuff was put in the proper place. There was one priority that ruled over all in Paul's life – that was to know Christ intimately. He knew the resurrection power of Jesus and he strove to know it more. He knew the sufferings of Christ and wanted to enter into it more. Jesus was his Savior, and while he knew his salvation was an unmerited gift of grace to him, he wanted that reality to so pervade his life that close fellowship with the Lord became his highest priority. Because that was the thing he cherished most of all so he long for ever-deepening union with Jesus.

Have you been saved by the grace of God? If so you know how precious a gift that is and you cherish your relationship with your Savior Jesus. Learn from the apostle and make it your highest ambition to know Jesus by pursuing intimate communion with Him, make it your highest priority and your greatest passion.