



In what way is everything other than Christ dung? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Philippians 3:8–11 prepares us for the evening sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these four verses of holy Scripture, we learn that neither the accomplishments of the flesh, nor anything else, is worth any more than dung for justification, sanctification or glorification. The knowledge of Christ, however, is most excellent for every part of our salvation!

Friday, June 4, 2021 • Read Philippians 3:8–11

Questions from the Scripture text: As what does the apostle count all things (v8)? In exchange for what more excellent thing? What has he actually done for Jesus? And how does he count those things he lost? In order to gain what? In what is he found, when he gains Christ (v9)? What does he not have of his own? From what couldn't he get it? Through what could he get righteousness? From Whom is this righteousness? By what? What three things does he know, having gained Christ (v10)? To what is the apostle conformed by the fellowship that he has in Christ's sufferings? What is this the means of attaining (v11)?

The apostle has counted as dung all that he previously thought was to his credit (v8). And he's right. They are as valuable as dung for obtaining the wonderful things in vv9–11. Justification (v9), sanctification (v10), and glorification (v11) can only come one way: the excellent knowledge of Christ Jesus—gaining Christ.

Justification, v9. If you have gained Christ, you are found to be righteous in Him (v9). The law can't give you righteousness, because you don't have any righteousness from yourself for it to bring out. We can only have righteousness that is from God, by faith. And Jesus Himself is that righteousness from God. We must be found in Him.

Sanctification, v10. Being found in Jesus begins a life-long journey of discovery as we know Him, more and more. Believers begin with knowing the power of His resurrection, in that He has made them new. And the more they grow, the more their sufferings take on a marvelous, new aspect: fellowship with Jesus's sufferings and being pressed into the shape of His death.

The apostle already preached this mindset in the first half of chapter two. In obedience to the Father and out of love for the church, Jesus was willing to be lowly and to suffer. And the more we grow in knowing Him, the more willing we are to be lowly and to suffer for the glory of God and the good of His people. Our suffering does not atone, but in it we have this likeness to Jesus and His mindset.

Glorification, v11. This knowledge of Jesus that led to our being right with God, and this knowledge of Christ that increases our like-mindedness to Himself, is the same knowledge of Jesus that is the only way of our coming into our own resurrection. On that day, our bodies will be like Jesus's, just as our mindset will have become like Jesus's.

Now, what could Paul's previous spiritual "attainments" have done to produce any of that for him? Indeed, they were useful as dung for justification, sanctification, or glorification. So also is any imagined spiritual strength or goodness from yourself, dear believer. The only thing that can avail for these is the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus your Lord.

When do you feel most spiritually needy? Who can meet that need? When do you feel least spiritually needy? How will you go about reminding yourself that that's when you're neediest?

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH508 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Philippians chapter three verses eight through eleven, these are God's words. Yet indeed. I also count all things lost. For the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For him. I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish. That I may gain Christ. And defend 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. That I may know Him. And the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings. Being conformed to His death. If by any means I maintain to the resurrection. From the dead.

So far God's Word.

In verse 7, the apostle had just finished saying that he has counted all the things that he thought were best about him apart from Christ as loss. For Christ. Not only were those things lost. And that all of them were sinful and not worthy and counted against him instead of for him and the judgment of God, but they're also useless.

That's where he goes in verse 8 yet indeed. I also have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish that I may gain Christ. There's a value comparison there and the word translated rubbish is actually. The first century common. Greek word for dung. Manure. And a very.

You don't want to say foul because we use the word to mean in different way, but Powell in the old way.

He disgusting decaying. Nasty. Thing by comparison to gain Christ and he goes on to describe in verse nine and ten and eleven three things that you can get from Christ that you cannot get from your flesh. That you cannot get from your works. And yours nine, he talks about justification.

Do you know what justification is Ezekiel? Justification is being made right with God. So God declaring you righteous having a righteous. Standing with him. And verse 10, he talks about sanctification. Being made more and more like Jesus. Killing the old man. Do we were apart from him? And in verse 11, he talks about glorification.

Talks about coming to last day when we will not only have had perfected souls. But even our bodies will be raised from the dead. Glorious like unto Jesus's glorious body. So he says in verse 9. That I may gain in Christ's verse 8, and then verse 9 and be found in him.

Not having. My own righteousness. Which is from God by faith. Sorry not having my own righteousness, which is from the law. But that which is through faith in Christ righteousness, which is from God by faith. So he had said, That his to his credit as a Pharisee if he could have had if anyone could have been confidence in a flesh he could and he says that in the righteousness that you could have from the law he was blameless and diverse six.

But you can't get righteousness from the law. It can only tell you what righteousness is. Therefore, he says, he didn't have any righteousness of his own. He couldn't have any right standing before God, except the right standing that you get through faith in Christ. The right standing of God himself.

So he says, All of the scuba lawn all of the dung. That I had previously done. Could not give me a right standing with God at all, but Christ. Can give you as right of a standing before God as God himself has. Now that if the Holy Spirit doesn't tell it to you in the Bible would sound like blasphemy wouldn't it?

But he says not having my own righteousness such as from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ the righteousness, which is from God by faith. Like the second Corinthians 5:21, he says Jesus he who is me being units and was made sin so that we might become the righteousness of God.

In Christ. So Jesus gives you right standing with God. He gives you justification and all of your accomplishments. Are done worthless for making you right with God. Second he says that I may know him and the power of his resurrection in the fellowship of his sufferings being conformed to his death.

Now, he talked about this earlier in chapter 2. When he said you should have and the same mind in you that was in Jesus Christ, he talked about Jesus humbling himself taking the form of a bondservant being fanned and appearances a man and. Humbling himself even unto death and that that the death of the cross.

So out of love for God and love for others. Jesus was willing to humble himself and suffer whatever was necessary in order to glorify. God in order to do good to his people and now Paul is saying. My zeal as a Pharisee led to my persecuting others. I wasn't eager to suffer to do them good eager to harm them.

But Christ is not only the only right way the only way to get gain right standing with God. Christ himself is the only way to grow in Christ likeness to grow and love for God and love for others and being willing to suffer and he says, He says his attainment says accomplishments were as done for producing Christ likeness, but Jesus himself.

Produces Christ's likeness, so thank. Holiness. Not only justification verse 9 sanctification verse 10, but then finally glorification if by any means and what he means is that Christ is the only means of which. I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. And he's talking about that last great day he says, If you have Christ.

For your right standing with God in your justification, and if you have Christ. For your growth and holiness and you're sanctification then you have that Christ by him, you will be brought to the last day. And he was talking about the day of the resurrection earlier in the book in chapter 1 and verse 6 and he said confident of this very thing that he who has begun a good work in you will be faithful to complete it unto the day of Christ Jesus.

The day of the resurrection so he said about them. And chapter 1 verse 6. I'm confident that on that day, you will be perfect and holiness and you will rise again from the dead with a body that is glorious like unto Jesus' resurrected body and now he says in chapter 3 and verse 11 all of my accomplishments could not bring me to that day and give me resurrection from the dead and put me among the number of those who are made glorious like Jesus.

But Christ himself does that and so he says you have to count all of your accomplishments as worthless. And Jesus as infinitely worthy for only through Jesus, can you have right standing with God justification only through Jesus, can you grow and holiness learning that mindset that Jesus displayed in his death according to chapter 2 sanctification?

And only from Jesus. Can you be sure only in Jesus, can you be sure? That you will have the resurrection from the dead that in the last day you will rise not to perish forever and be punished forever body and soul, but to have a glorified body like Christ's glorified body to match that perfected soul.

That he has that he has produced in you. And.

Which we call glorification. So we need to. Love God and we need to do what his word says.

And yet as we do those things we need to remember that if we think that they are to our credit then or that they are the things that are making us right with God or making us holy or guaranteeing our resurrection. That we are placing value on done. Which we should have we should have given up because only Jesus is valuable for making us right with God or making us holy or giving us the resurrection.

Spray.

Father help us to see. Christ and his worthiness and his value.

And his power and goodness. And efficacy for making us right with you making us holy. And bringing us even to the resurrection from the dead. So that we will not trust in ourselves or boasts or have confidence in the flesh. But we would count our accomplishments as dung. When it comes to gaining.

The justification and sanctification and glorification that we need.

We have. Very weak faith, so we don't see the value of Christ or feel it like we should. We have. Two strong pride. So we feel confident in ourselves and self-righteous.

So we pray that your Holy Spirit would help us. That he would give us the mind of Christ that your words talked about and Philippians. Ask all these things in Jesus name and that.