

Losing All For Christ – Part 2
Philippians 3:4-11
Series: Joy and Gratitude in Christ

1. Introduction

- a. Last week we saw the righteousness accumulated by man as something that is of very little value.
 - i. Personal sacrifice, morality, religious works, religious adherence, and zealously are not value but they are actually loss.
 - 1. None of these things have value with God.
- b. We saw this displayed in the life of the Apostle Paul before his conversion. He was the model Jew and yet when he had an encounter with Christ, he learned that all his personal righteousness was of no value.
- c. Today we will see that a relationship with Christ is infinitely more valuable than any personal acts of righteousness.
- d. Today, we will see that the loss of all things was replaced by five matchless benefits that were his in Christ.

2. Verses 7 – Whatever gain

- a. Paul opens with a dramatic truth; nothing in this world is of comparable value than being in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- b. This truth is echoed by Christ for our consideration:
 - i. **Mark 8:34-35** And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. (35) For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

3. Verses 8-9A – Benefit One: Knowledge

- a. The Surpassing worth of knowing Christ,
 - i. Paul abandoned his past religious achievements in view of the surpassing knowledge of knowing Christ.
 - 1. Surpassing value – refers to something of incomparable worth

- ii. Knowing – Gnosis – Experimentally and experientially by personal involvement. It is a transcendent knowledge and an intimate love bond.
 - iii. **John 10:14** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,
 - iv. **2 Corinthians 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
 - v. **1 John 5:20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.
 - b. Knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord – three-fold office of the Son of God
 - i. Prophet – Christ
 - ii. Jesus – savior; high priest
 - iii. Lord – King
 - c. Knowing Christ causes us to devalue what was once invaluable to us – notice all his personal morality was rubbish; trash, dung, waste, manure. Paul shows utter disdain for any confession of personal merit.
 - d. Instead, Paul wants to be “found in Christ”
 - i. **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
4. Verse 9B – Benefit Two: God’s Righteousness
- a. So many people are in the boat that Paul was in:
 - i. **Romans 10:3** For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.
 - ii. It is a free gift of divine grace that man repudiate in order to establish their own fruitless righteousness
 - b. Righteousness that depends on faith – this faith is the confident, continuous confession of total dependence on and trust in Jesus. It produces righteousness; a right standing with God and acceptance by Him.
 - i. Imputation

5. Verse 10A – Benefit Three: Power

- a. Christ's resurrection was the greatest display of Christ's power. Rising from the dead revealed Christ's absolute power over both the physical and spiritual realms. Paul experienced Christ's resurrection power as well.
 - i. It saved him.
 - ii. It sanctified him

- 6. Verse 10B – Benefit Four: Fellowship
 - a. A deep partnership and communion with Christ in suffering. When he met Christ, Paul gained a companion to be with him in his suffering.

- 7. Verse 11 – Benefit Five: Glory
 - a. A guarantee of his future resurrection, when he would share Christ's glory.
 - b. Paul echoes every Christian's longing when he writes:
 - i. **2 Corinthians 5:1-3** For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2) For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, (3) if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked.
 - c. This will be accomplished at the resurrection from the dead.

- 8. Benediction:
 - a. **1 Corinthians 15:53-57** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. (54) When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (55) "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (56) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.