

Philippians 3:8–11

<sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence 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

<sup>9</sup> 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;

<sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

<sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

***“That I May Know Him”***  
**Philippians 3:8-11**

INTRO:

Early in this chapter we find the Apostle Paul writing to us about the passion of his life, his relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. In setting this up, Paul took us to his **“counting room”** where he once counted out all those treasures he trusted to win God’s approval (**verses 3-7**). Then Jesus came by in his life and everything changed. All those things he thought were riches, he suddenly saw them as they really were, bits of ugly self-righteousness. They were in reality nothing but **“filthy rags”** in the sight of God.

That is why Paul counted them as loss. He buried them as something unclean, never to be dug up again. We pick up our study in **verses 8-11**, we learn why Paul was willing to give up everything that once he thought as valuable.

***I. Why I Gave up Everything I thought Important (v. 8-9)***

***II. How I Gained Something Much Better (v. 10-11)***

***I. Why I Gave up Everything I thought Important (v. 8-9)***

***A. “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence 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 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.” (vs.8-9)***

The Apostle Paul made his break with the things he rested on before for his standing with God. Once he abandoned these things he could never return to them.

1. In **verse 8**, Paul repeats himself, only this time he asserted his forsaking of the things was an ongoing reality. He will never go back and embrace these things as valuable again.

2. We might ask Paul, *“Why are you so unbending in this choice?”* Paul would reply with the rest of this verse. *“I will not go back to this spiritual fools gold, because I found something far better. I have received the excelling knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ and the righteousness that comes through faith in Him.”*

3. This is very much like the story that Jesus told in **Matthew 13**.

**vs.44-46** *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.”*

Paul would say, I found the pearl of great price, the treasure hidden in the field, and I am willing to sell all I thought dear in order that I might have this treasure.

B. This is why Paul gave up all that he once valued, *“For whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him.”*

C. Not only did Paul find Christ, but He found something more:

*“That I may gain Christ 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.”*

I willingly gave up my pseudo righteousness for real righteousness. I gave up my righteousness I work to obtain for the righteousness that only God can give in Christ.

## ***II. How I Gained Something Much Better (v. 10-11)***

*“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 may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”*

One commentator understands the connection here in this way, “Yes, I consider everything as unspeakable filth] for the goal of knowing Christ.”

A. The Apostle Paul did not consider his conversion the end of everything. No, the dumping of the false treasures opened the door through his salvation to this dynamic relationship with Christ and this ultimate goal of his life. I pitched everything that I might have this one thing. I did it that I might know Christ. This is much more than an intellectual knowledge. When he wrote this Paul had already known the Lord Jesus

as his Savior and Lord for over thirty years. Paul wanted a deeper, a growing, and more intimate knowledge of Christ. This was available to him because he embraced Christ and Christ alone.

B. There are two dimensions to this knowledge.

1. First, Paul wanted to know the Lord Jesus in ***“the power of His resurrection.”*** The dynamism of this phrase catches our imaginations, which is why we love to put it on plaques on our walls. What does it really mean? I suspect it is tied to Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian believers in **Ephesians 1:18-21.**

***“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”***

This is life transforming power, a power we can have through knowing and loving Him.

2. Second, he wanted to know Him in the ***“Fellowship of His sufferings.”*** This is the knowledge and growth in our relationships with Christ which comes through our traveling through the rough places in the road with Him.

3. All of that is done with the goal of being with Him in the resurrection. There is no doubt of being in the resurrection expressed here. Rather, Paul wrote, in whatever way I end up being resurrected, whether with those who are dead and buried or those who remain and are changed in an instant, I will be there because I know Him!

***Is this the passion of our lives?***

Do we recognize that to have Jesus means we cannot hold on to anything else as our ticket to heaven?

Are we determined to grow in this relationship with our Lord? We can have a relationship with Christ like Paul enjoyed.

Are we willing to set other things aside so we may know Him in this way?

***Hymn #517 I’d Rather Have Jesus***