

Calculating Gains and Losses

(in something far more important than the stock market)

Sermon 14 in the Philippians Series

Philippians 3:4-11

I. Paul's Personal Pedigree v. 4-8

This along with 2 Corinthians 11 and Galatians 1 & 2 are Paul's personal autobiography.

A. Paul moves from "we" to "I" -- v. 4

B. The Advantages Paul had by birth -- v. 5

1. Circumcised the 8th day
2. of the stock of Israel
3. of the tribe of Benjamin

H.A.A. Kennedy, " This tribe stood high in Jewish estimation, not only as descending from Rachel, Jacob's best-loved wife, but as remaining loyal to the house of David, and after the exile, forming with Judah the foundation of the future nation."

4. A Hebrew of Hebrews

C. The Advantages Paul Attained by his own Efforts – v. 5b-6

1. A Pharisee
2. A Persecutor
3. Blameless

D. Paul's "Losses" and "Gains" -- v. 7

E. All Paul's Gains were "Rubbish" compared to New Life in Christ -- v. 8

1. "Rubbish" is a more comprehensive word than "dung"
2. "For whom I suffered the loss of all things"
3. The all-surpassing excellence of knowing Jesus Christ my Lord
4. That I may Gain Christ

II. Alien Righteousness Explained -- v. 9

“The law-maker became the law-keeper
But then took our place and condemnation
As though he were the law-breaker.” (Sinclair Ferguson)

- A. This Righteousness is Christ’s Righteousness
- B. This Righteousness does not come from law-keeping
- C. This Righteousness is appropriated by Faith
- D. This Righteousness t comes from God

“The Gospel to Paul, consists precisely in this: that we can do nothing to earn our salvation or to secure it for ourselves. God in Christ does it all.” B.B. Warfield

III. That I May Know Him -- v. 10-11

- A. Knowing Him (personally)
- B. Knowing His Resurrection Power
- C. Knowing the Fellowship of His Sufferings

Acts 14:22 -- Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

- D. Conforming to His Death – and awaiting the Resurrection

John 12:24 – Verily Verily I say unto you, Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.