

Letting go to gain Christ (part 2)
(Phil 3.1-11; 05-10-20am)

Central thought: Nothing else compares to knowing Christ (v8)

I. Keep rejoicing and stay alert (1)

II. God is not impressed by man's credentials – a religious pedigree does not change the heart (2-6)

III. Losing all to gain Christ (7-11)

A. Earthly gains are no comparison to gaining Christ (7-9)

1. Earthly gains are fine, but they must not become your treasure or your identity (7)

Whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ

2. Nothing compares to knowing Jesus (8)

I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ

3. As we grow in love for Jesus; previous loves will take on less significance (8)

For His sake, I have suffered the loss of all things & count them as rubbish

4. If earthly accomplishments hinder your spiritual growth, they must go (8) (Eph 4.22-24; Heb 12.1)

Count them as rubbish in order that I may gain Christ

5. When we stand before God, what matters is that God will find us righteous in Christ (9) *found in Him*

6. *Gaining/Knowing Christ* occurs through faith – which depends on God (9)

Not having righteousness of my own [from law], but that which comes [from God] thru faith in Christ

What is faith, and why is faith so important and how do we get faith? (Heb 11.1; Heb 11.6; Eph 2.8-9)

It is God's grace that provides faith to believe; faith to obey; faith to endure; faith to suffer for sake of Christ

Want to use the notion of experiencing Christ as a way of summarizing what Paul writes in v9-11
found in Him; know Him (& power of His resurrection; share sufferings; becoming like Him . . .

(Cannot rely on experience to determine truth; instead, rely on truth to give meaning/purpose to experiences)

B. Gaining Christ means experiencing Christ (9-11)

1. Gain Christ = experience His righteousness (9) *be found in Him*

2. Gain Christ = experience saving knowledge of Christ (10) *know Him*

Paul emphasize same point with different words – by definition, *be found in Christ* is to *know Christ*

Know Him personally – to experience what it means to have a r/ship w/Jesus

Know Him preeminently – to experience Jesus as your source of joy and gladness

Know Him practically – to experience Jesus thru obedience & imitation – Paul says: to be *found IN Him*

3. *Gain Christ* = experience power of Jesus *resurrection* (10) *know power of His resurrection*

What does that mean?

How is that encouraging?

know power of Jesus resurrection = have full confidence God will raise us from dead (1 Cor 15.20-23)

know power of Jesus resurrection = remember Jesus *r/h of throne of God* – *interceding* for us (Heb 7.25)

know power of Jesus resurrection = look forward to future inheritance, *fellow heirs w/Christ* (Rom 8.17)

4. Gain Christ = experience *sufferings of Jesus* (10) (Phil 1.29; Matt 5.10-12; Jn 15.18-21)

5. Gain Christ = experience similar death *become like Him in death*

6. Gain Christ = experience same resurrection from the dead (11)

by any means possible, attain resurrection from the dead

Phrases like *knowing Christ; sharing sufferings of Christ; becoming like Christ in His death*

Represent what it means to *gain Christ and be found in Him* – that comes *thru faith in Christ*

Paul summarizes that most beautifully in Gal 2.20