

The Examined Life

Today we see that all the benefits of life, or the cost of suffering, cannot compare to the value of intimacy with Jesus.

Q: What things does Paul count as loss?

- All birth privileges and choices for improving life, wealth, and reputation.
- Examining The Loss (vs. 7-8A):
Birth privileges or past choices all remain a loss. Ge. 19:17, 26. Job 2:4. Pr. 13:8; 23:23. Mat. 13:44-46; 16:26. Lu. 14:26, 33; 16:8; 17:31-33
- Paul found, as many other do, it's a waste to strive in life for anything but Jesus.
Ac. 20:24. Ro. 8:18. Phil. 3:10. Is. 53:11. Je. 9:23, 24. Mat. 11:25-27

Q: What thing remains a gain to Paul, no matter the cost?

- Divine ability, strength and gifting's, or the gift of participating in suffering, even and including death.
- Examining The Gain (vs. 8B-11):
Any way to grow closer to Jesus; through experience, divine power, partnership in suffering, or death, all is worth gaining more of Him.
He. 3:14. 1 Jhn. 1:3; He. 6:18. 1 Pe. 3:19, 20. 1 Co. 1:30. 2 Co. 5:17
- A renewed mind removes the world-view of gain and provides a heavenly view.
Ro. 6:4-11; 8:10, 11; Eph. 4:23; Col. 2:13; 3:1

- Gaining intimacy with Jesus provides all the person ever desires.
Ep. 1:19-21. 1 Pe. 1:3; 4:1, 2. Re. 1:18. Mat. 20:23. Ro. 6:3-5; 8:17, 29. Col. 1:24. Lu. 14:14; 20:35, 36. Jhn. 11:24

In closing...

Trusting Jesus means I can live in relationship with Him, not because of my behavior, but because of His love, which is so great its worth losing the world to gain Him, no matter pain or difficulty.

Digging Deeper

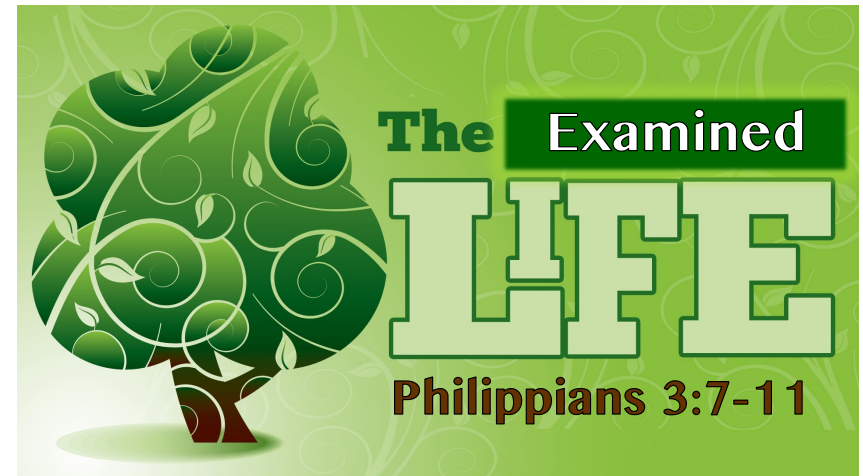
FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. What remains in your life now, that one day you will recognize a loss? What are willing to lose (money, reputation, comfort, family, status, etc.) to gain more intimacy with Jesus? (Vs. 7-8a)
2. What are willing to do (in practice not proclamation) whether it be work, serve, give, or suffer (not just pain, but any suffering) to know Jesus more in a experiential way? (Vs. 8b-11)

**"The unexamined life is not worth living."
-Socrates**

Remember, today I can put away everything that is hindering, or causing damage to my relationship with Him by lying at His feet.

Read: Matthew 16:26, 1 Corinthians 10:23, & Luke 12:16-21



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