

Series: Philippians: That We May Know Him VII

Text: Philippians 3:1-11

HI: Jesus is better.

Title: Profit & Loss

Hook: P&L Statement

Date: 10.22.23

Purpose: To juxtapose the worthlessness of self-righteousness with the pricelessness of knowing Christ.

FCF: Like the Philippians, all sinners naturally desire and futilely attempt to be made right. God's grace meets us in Jesus, who brings a righteousness to sinners that cannot be attained through any source but him.

COR: There are innumerable sources which advertise that we can be made right by jumping through various hoops. Only Christ brings us a righteousness we need not earn, because we cannot attain it without him.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: The death, resurrection, and glorification of Christ is seen in vv. 10-11; showing how the sinner is made right.

Apologetic: Believe in yourself vs. Gospel (end of MVM 2)

Text Tone: Warning

Preaching Voice: Prophetic

Form: Inductive

Call to Worship: Philippians 4:20

Benediction: Philippians 4:6-7

Outline:

I. Christ saves us from striving for a status we cannot gain. (1-8)

A. Faith in self is worthless. (1-3)

B. Knowing Christ is priceless. (4-8)

II. Christ gives us a life in righteousness we cannot earn. (9-11)

A. Through Christ we receive righteousness we cannot earn. (9)

B. In Christ we find new life that will not fail. (10-11)

Main Idea:

Subject: Why is knowing Jesus a source of joy to Paul and the Philippians?

Complement: Because in Christ sinners receive a righteousness that they cannot attain without him.

Exegetical Idea: Knowing Jesus is a source of joy to Paul and the Philippians because in Christ sinners receive a righteousness from God that they cannot attain without him.

Theological Idea: Knowing Christ brings joy because in him sinners receive a righteousness they cannot attain on their own.

Homiletical Idea: Jesus is better.

Introduction:

READ Philippians 3:1-11

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. ² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

READ Philippians 3:1-8

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⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

I. Christ saves us from striving for a status we cannot gain. (1-8)

A. Faith in self is worthless. (1-3)

False religion = Jesus[plus]

Circumcision: “chosen recipients of God’s promises”

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. 1 John 3:9

Flesh = [minus]Jesus

B. Knowing Christ is priceless. (4-8)

HI: Jesus is better.

RE-READ Philippians 3:9-11

⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

II. Christ gives us a life in righteousness we cannot earn. (9-11)

“Once you become aware that the main business that you are here for is to know God, most of life’s problems fall into place of their own accord” J.I. Packer,
Knowing God

Partnership: koinonia (fellowship)

HI: Jesus is better.

“Christ does not become ours by effort but by rejection of effort” Dennis Johnson