



**“Knowing Christ”
Philippians 3:8-11
The Joy of Unity: The Book of Philippians**

Introduction

Question: What if we all had a secret ledger that kept track of the things we value most in life? What would yours look like?

In this passage, Paul envisions his life laid out on a spreadsheet with two columns on the page: one for his losses, and one for his gains.

I. Paul’s Losses

A. He counted his former way of life as a loss (cf. Phil 3:5-6)

Verse 7 – “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

B. He counted everything the fallen world has to offer as a loss

Verse 8 – “More than that, I count all things to be loss...”

C. He counted the temporal things of this world as rubbish

Verse 8 – “and count them but rubbish...”

Greek: *skúbalon* – garbage, street filth, rotten food, the excrement of animals.

II. Paul’s Gains

Verse 8 – “I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...”

The one thing Paul wanted more than anything was to know Christ. That’s what he valued more than everything else combined!

“Surpassing value” = priceless privilege, supreme advantage, overwhelming preciousness.

Greek: *gnōsis* – personal, intimate knowledge that is gained by experience.

What does it mean to know Christ?

1. To be found in him.

Verse 9 – “and may be found in Him...”

2. To be justified by faith in him.

Verse 9 – “not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith...”

Two Kinds of Righteousness	
<i>Earned Righteousness</i>	<i>Imputed Righteousness</i>
Comes from the Law	Comes from God

How do we know Christ more deeply?

1. **By experiencing the power of his resurrection** (v. 10)
2. **By sharing in the fellowship of his sufferings** (v. 10)
3. **By being conformed to his death** (v. 10)
4. **By attaining to the resurrection from the dead** (v. 11)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you had a secret ledger that kept track of the things you value most in life, what would be one of the surprising items on your list? (Pick one you feel comfortable sharing.)
2. What is one thing you used to consider as a *gain* in life that you now consider a *loss*?
3. Other than your conversion, describe a time when you came to know Christ in a deeper, personal, experiential way.
4. What is the difference between the righteousness that comes from the Law and the righteousness that comes from God?
5. Paul mentions four ways we can know Christ more deeply. Which one is the most challenging for you personally, and why?