

# Be Found In Him

## Anthony Kim

---

Good morning. One of the greatest most clear pictures in scripture. What happens when God opens a person's eyes? What once seemed valuable becomes worthless. Prophets and loss describe his spiritual transformation. He once considered all his Jewish religious achievements to be assets earning him favor with God. However, upon recognizing the glory of Christ, he classified them as liabilities, realizing they were utterly worthless and even condemned to his soul.

It's the same verse of the Lord Jesus described in Matthew 13:44 where a man is described who finds treasure hid in a field and dwelling lets go of everything else because God has shown him something infinitely better. This is not Paul's effort. This is God's work in him. God opening his spiritual eyes. God revealing Christ in his soul. God reordering his value system. God transforming his heart.

But verse seven as the concluding verse in my last sermon, we're going to touch on it, but then we're going to go into verses 8 to 11. And you will see that there is no period until verse 11 because it is one of the longest, most extended sentence in the New Testament. So that peace rise as you read beginning in verse seven.

But what things were gained to me? Those I counted lost for Christ. Yea doubt this I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. From whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but dung, that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith, that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his suffering, being made conformable unto his death, if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

This same God continues to do this great work that we see in the life of the apostle that we see every verse. But what things were gained to me? Those I counted lost for Christ. Paul had an impressive religious resume. We saw that in verse 4 through 6. But then we see here the opening in Philippians 7 which signals a dramatic shift in Paul's argument.

Before this, he detailed his many privileges and impressive accomplishments, all things a person might boast about. Surely he could boast about those things. However, these paths

are added vanish and are rendered utterly worthless the moment that Paul encounters Christ.

We look at the text. We're looking at the fine bookkeeping transaction. Only God can reorder this system of rearranging for us to consider. Have you evaluated your life, your own personal as it were balance sheet of your game and your present personal balance sheet? How does your balance sheet look for gaining term and loss describes a business loss?

Paul once considered his extensive list of religious accomplishments to be assets. However, upon his conversion, the Holy Spirit opened his eyes, revealing that these very things were in fact unfavorable and utterly worthless because he countered Jesus Christ. He stopped placing his trust in those former things.

You see, he had previously been an enemy of the cross, actively persecuting the Lord Jesus's followers on the road to Damascus. However, that changed completely. You see, the Lord Jesus Christ privileged his scene as a liability in the eyes of the apostle before he was illuminated by the holy scriptures and by the Holy Spirit now becomes the greatest asset.

He placed his full and complete trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. You see, it was not a human decision that changed his ledger. No, no. God did this. God did this. God stripped away Paul's confidence in his flesh. God showed him the bankruptcy that is revealed by his self-righteousness. God revealed that human goodness cannot save.

All those achievements and accomplishments were worthless before God. They served only to elevate him as in humanity. And what happened was he diminished Christ as a result. So Paul's frequent use of I in this passage and you're going to see this throughout verses 8 through 11. Notice all the eyes. Notice all the eyes because in this passage he's going to highlight an intensely personal journey sharing his own experiences and fervent desires.

His story demands a response. You can only relate to this on a personal level if you share a similar deep desire. Therefore, his words are either profoundly distant, doesn't mean anything to you, or is strikingly close to your own experiences. There's only two. Neutral interest is impossible. It's impossible when faced with this man's passionate zeal.

So God in his rich in mercy dismantles Paul's pride and therefore our pride so that Christ alone is exalted. Well, we're going to see in verse 7 of Philippians and to 8 there is a significant period from Paul's conversion which is around AD34 to the composition of this very epistle which is approximately 60 to 60 AD. Why do I share this? because that's

around 25 to 30 years of him recalling from his conversion through his missionary journeys leading up to this current situation of writing this epistle.

And he's writing this after all from a Roman prison for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. So conversion for Paul was not a fleeting experience. He had plenty of time to live out his conversion. Many mistakenly believe that a moment possibly coming to the altar or a sudden vision that you may have of Christ or a peak emotional experience and constitutes true conversion. However, conversion is a lasting change, an eternal change in your life. It happens in a moment, yes, but continues throughout one's life for eternity.

Similarly, sanctification is not defined by intense emotional highs. Just like it isn't in justification, it's not the same as well in your sanctification, becoming more conformed to Christ. Rather, it is defined by daily commitment, daily obedience to walk in whose dependence on God from beginning to end. That's what God looks at. He looks at our faithfulness, not by our emotional experiences, not by our commitments coming to the altar as it were. No, he wants to see that we constantly depend upon him, upon our salvation and our continual growth and walk in the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what he sees in us as believers. So then let's go to verse eight. With that said,

verse eight says this, "Yay, doubtless, and I count all things, all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, from whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and to count them but dung, that I may win Christ."

What we see here is at the very onset of this verse, yay, doubtless means yay truly. It's a double like Jesus saying verily verily truly truly he's using that phrase and what is Paul is saying he's count all things lost not because he is disciplined not not because he is strict in his life no but because God has given him a new affection he no longer has the affections of his previous former life and his achievements and accomplishments no he has all his affections in Christ. You see that with the expression that I may win Christ just one person. He is affectionately attached to the one and only the Lord Jesus Christ.

And then we see this word knowledge of Christ. It this is not merely to have an intellectual factual understanding about him. Not to just build up your own knowledge cue as it were. No, this is an experiential and personal knowledge that grants that God grants to his people.

And since his conversion, Paul had made Christ the central focus of his life, viewing all else as loss and Jesus Christ of the greatest importance of his thoughts. That that's what it means. He is first and foremost in the way I think of things.

Again, God has changed his value system completely upside down and right side up. Jesus Christ again is the one that corresponds to this very intimate language that we see

even in the Old Testament where in the Hebrew understanding of God's sovereignty his control over knowledge of his people and a shared commitment for those that he are calling his people is the same intimate language we see in this word knowledge this is God's work Ezekiel 36:26 says this of God giving us a new heart. It says, "A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you an heart of flesh."

God gives desires for Christ. That's what it means in the New Testament. And God gives the ability to see his surpassing worth. Everything else compared to him is worthless. That's what worship means. He is worth. Amen. He's worth of everything that our very soul grips on to. One commentary puts it like this. Conversion is something that stays with you. It continues for a lifetime. To understand Christ takes a lifetime.

There's nothing more valuable than the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Is important to distinguish between viewing everything as a loss and actually suffering loss for the sake of everything. You see that it wasn't just an intellectual I lost everything. No, he suffered the loss of all things. That takes it to another level, doesn't it? Takes it to another level. See, Paul experienced both.

He realized that his former privileges were detrimental to his desire for a deeper knowledge of Christ. He understood that those things weigh down a deeper understanding of Christ. So he's like, I am willing to just count everything all together for one gain. It's not gains you'll see, but gain to win Christ.

You see, he didn't just acknowledge this fact. He completely relinquished them. not only in his mind but he suffered a loss of it. It was experiential and he did he did he he did not do this as a form of self-punishment by the way. It wasn't no self-punishment as such acts offer no spiritual advantage and will not lead to a greater knowledge of Christ.

This is not Paul's effort. This is God revealing Christ's beauty. I often note whenever I'm studying scripture that I might not just know the word of God in its perfection, but that I would also see the beauty of the word of God. Do you realize how important it is that it's not just about an intellectual understanding of God's word? Yes, that is important. But to actually see the beauty of scripture, namely the beauty in Christ.

For God to reveal this beauty takes much focus and attention because why? Our sinful disposition doesn't want to. Our sinful disposition wants to look at the beauty of man and not upon Christ. It takes an act of faith to look upon him in truth and in beauty. And by the way also in glory. Also in glory that the weight is now shifted from man to God. That is what glory is in its essence.

So in this verse we see the radical nature of God's work in the life of the apostle Paul. You remember he has spent time thinking about this. He has precisely measured everything into his balance sheet and he goes, "Yeah, I can name one thing after the other and I consider it all loss just to win Christ." Just simply to win Christ, which means everything to him. And it means everything to us as believers, doesn't it? Because he is worthy of it all. The things once considered precious are now viewed as his word, dung. This is strong language. Paul doesn't just use light words here. This is the most strongest language that he could use for his accomplishments and his privileges. He uses a word dung. Literally meaning garbage. Literally, there's no value in my accomplishments or my privileges.

For that to happen, it has to be a complete hard transformation. It's not something light. He was just saying, "Oh, I'm just going to use a strong light." No, he literally said, "This is all garbage. My former life is garbage compared to when Christ, God performs a work in a heart like this." So profound that anything that's labeled as religion, man-centered, man works, is flushed down the toilet.

That's the kind of observation that is taken with the Apostle Paul. He strips away anything that pertains to man's works or man's efforts and instead firmly plants himself the reality of what Christ has done. His work, his efforts for salvation. We do not offer God anything of value. Instead, we are brought by the spirit of God to realize we are all bankrupt sinners. Amen.

Everything that we try to earn in salvation is a negative. Everything. That's how he sees it as a loss. It's all negative. It doesn't gain anything. It actually makes things worse. That's what God does. He changes our whole accounting system. You see, we do not offer anything of value. We are all bankrupt sinners like beggars with nothing to offer in our hands. While God possesses everything and offers it freely to us. Everything freely to us.

All human achievements sink into nothing and disappear the moment God reveals. The moment that God reveals the magnificent excellencies of Lord Jesus. Excellency that word also is not something that is uh mild language is it not? It's not just it's it's you know okay to know Christ. No, he he uses the most strongest language he can use for the best and that's excellency of the knowledge of Christ. It's the most excellent knowledge that you can obtain.

And so in verse nine, he goes in and says these words, that he may be found in him, not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith. Here is the heart of the gospel. Righteousness is a gift. We see that towards the latter part of this phrase by faith from God. Not a product of human flesh. Paul does not stand before God with anything he has

done. Paul instead he stands clothed in what God has done namely the righteousness of Christ.

This verse was also central by the way to John Bunan's understanding of salvation. As you recall, he gave an allegory of what salvation looks like. He was walking one day through the fields deeply troubled about how he could possibly stand before Almighty God. He recounts that he suddenly saw himself not merely as a sinner, but as a sin itself from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet. In that moment, he recognized his own other emptiness and Christ's complete sufficiency.

This realization represented the pivotal moment in his conversion when he undertook that his righteousness was in Christ, not in his own works. This was the verse that God used to speak to his soul in this way. And this emphasis that any righteousness derived from the law is merely a proud selfrighteousness which all involves what? External rituals, external works that cannot save from sin. It's as if you're putting your hand and a fist towards God and saying, "I'm going to do this my way." It's proud, arrogant, and God is disgusted by that attitude.

Accordingly, God has declared that all our human righteousnesses as filthy rags. Isaiah 64:6. This is what it says. But we are all all as an unclean thing. And all our righteousness are as filthy rags. And we all do fade as a leaf. And our iniquities like the wind have taken us away.

God does not take in our filth. Another way of putting it. Instead, God performs a legal according to his accounting system and a spiritual miracle that only he can perform. You see, he imputes that word impute means to credit to credit and that is what the righteousness of Christ to the believer so that God evaluates. God is the one that evaluates. It is as a believer's own. See, that's more important, isn't it? God's perspective on God, how he sees what righteousness is, not through our own self-righteousness.

See, this is union possible only because God is the one that orchestrates righteousness in Christ. When Christ died, he subtracted the sins of his people. And when he rose, he did so for all believers justification.

We must understand that when even the faith mentioned here in this verse is a total dependence on Christ that God facilitates from beginning to end. And again noting as bankrupt sinners everything on the lost side of the equation you have nothing to offer. We have nothing to offer. Yet God possesses everything and makes it freely available to you.

So the position we have to come and we have come if you're a believer is I have nothing. I have nothing God. And you are the one that has everything. It's a complete reversal of self-righteousness to the righteousness of Christ.

God does this from beginning to end. And righteousness is not something a person can work for or buy or earn his way. It is rather a portion received from God. That word important word by faith. See, God is the one that cleans us up, reverses all the negative transaction all in one moment because it only took a moment for Christ to die on the cross.

And he paid it in full as he Jesus said, "It is finished." We are cleansed and we are made into what? Complete cancellation of sin. Complete cancellation. All that was in the red, all that was in red was all erased in one moment. That's a miracle. That's a miracle.

See, this is God's work from beginning to end. God provides our righteousness. God unites us to Christ. God declares us righteous. God keeps us in Christ. See, this is why Paul says, "Be found in him." Be found in him. Not found in Paul. Not found in in the efforts of Paul, but found in Christ. Be found in Christ. Having abandoned his past pursuits of legal righteousness, Paul is changing his present purpose. From the moment of conversion, his present purpose is completely changed. Going forward, he will no longer seek to achieve piety, religiosity, observance, or aggressive persecution of Christ's church. He instead adopts the adoption that God gives to him, a new accounting system. And now in verses 10 to 11, he intends to live according to what God measures, according to his pleasure. So look down with me,

beginning in verse uh 10, we now see from his conversion, verse 9 to verse 10, his new order of life. Verse 10. That I may know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings being made conformable unto his death. Here we see the aim of the Christian life is to be filled with a deeper understanding. We saw this were repeated knowledge in verse eight of the importance of knowing Christ. This intimacy that God grows within us.

God's love towards Christ is more and more brought to light and brought brought more into affections for him. And this includes the power of his resurrection, this new way of living. You see, this is the very power by which Christ raised himself from the dead.

Think of the mount immense power that it took. No man was able to raise himself, not even Lazarus. As we recall Jesus the one that said said come forth. But Jesus the power of resurrection raising himself from the dead demonstrated his authority over both what the physical and the spiritual worlds and is the same divine power that God uses to enable us as believers to walk in newness of life.

Here's what Romans 6:4 says. Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

This is the same power also described in Ephesians 1:19 to 20. It says this, the power that raised Christ from the dead is a power God works in believers. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe according to the working of his mighty power which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

So God brings the believer into the fellowship of his sufferings. By the way, this is not Paul choosing suffering. That's not what's implied here. This is rather God drawing Paul into deeper fellowship with Christ in the fellowship of suffering. Got to always remember it is God that's drawing the heart and affection of a believer in doing these things. So when you see Paul and then when you see yourself, it's a moment to thank God that he gives us this opportunity to grow in closer affection towards the things of Christ.

And this is not a human sought again after pain. He doesn't it's not him wanting seeking more pain. No, it's a partnership of a deeper communion of the suffering that the spirit shares within every believer. So we no longer suffer for our sins. We no longer suffer for our sins, but instead he wants us to share in the suffering of Christ.

God uses these trials, the trials that you may be in right now to deepen your fellowship with Christ who comforts us. By the way, the best comforter because he has experienced the same suffering. But here's the most important part. He suffered infinitely more. Infinitely more. And not for his own sin, but for ours.

We got to always remind ourselves of that. It's not just, oh, we're we're comparing. No, infinitely more. Infinitely more. And God is the one conforming the believer to Christ death. I think that's so morbid. Yeah, it takes faith. But when you do, when you have that moment, when you have that moment to understand that phrase, there's nothing like it. There's nothing like it. He brings you right there as if you're seeing it face to face in a moment.

is something to meditate on continually. Just as Christ died to redeem sinners, God works in his servants to live and even die for the purpose of reaching others with the gospel. Isn't that what Paul did? He would do anything to share the gospel. Yeah. Even his life if it meant death. That's how much the Lord Jesus Christ meant to him.

You see, genuine faith is active and transformative. It, as James declared, "Show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works." James 2:18, by the way, it doesn't say, "Show thee my law by my works." It's my faith by my works.

See, no longer are we bound by a law system, but we are living according to a faith grace system. That's what James 2:18 is illustrating here. You see, this principle is evident in the man Paul who was once driven by the law, now willing to travel to what? save people

to to proclaim the gospel that through the gospel that God would use it to save people. You see, it was an earthshattering change in his life where once driven by the law, now driven by grace and faith.

Once he was willing to travel to Damascus to persecute all Christ's followers, yay, even all through the world, but under grace and through faith, that same transformative energy that compelled him to be allin to travel to the ends of the earth to make and bear witness for Christ.

Every effort, every energy displayed in the believer's life is actually derived by who? the power of the Holy Spirit which is far greater power than any kind of human energy and effort can do in a legal system.

This is God's work. God uses suffering to conform us to Christ. Always remember that. And always remember God uses suffering to detach us from the world and from all sin. God uses suffering to deepen our communion with him. Rather to suffer and sharing in the fellowship of Christ than to suffer for our sins. What a great change. What a great redeemer. What a great savior. Amen.

Now let's look at verse 11. Verse 11 says this. If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Here finally we look towards the fulfillment of our salvation. So he goes from justification, sanctification and now here glorification. The term if in this verse does not imply human doubt. He's not doubting God but rather it's an affirmation of the great joy God will bring to pass according to you Lord in your timing. That's what it means. He's expressing a longing here.

The resurrection from the dead literally means a resurrection out from the corpses, referring to the fulfillment of his salvation in his resurrection body. Romans 8:30 puts it this way. Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called and whom he called, then he also justified and whom he justified, them he also glorified. This is the glorified resurrected body that he is longing for.

And every believer we are longing for that. Amen. Because this flesh of ours is a battle every day. Every day until then. And it is God who brings the believer into his presence. While many think of the end of life as merely escaping the world. No. As a believer, the work of God is to bring us into his very presence. Face to face. Amen. Right now, it's through faith. It's by faith. But one day, we're going to get to be in his very presence. That's what we're longing for. ultimately not escaping from this world but longing for his presence. See,

Paul's longing for this fulfillment was a reflection of the humility God had placed in him. Again, this is God changing his affections all the way to the very end. He did not care for how God brought it to pass. He didn't want to figure it out. He didn't want to try to figure out the timing of it. Notice a lot of people try to figure out the timing of things. He's like, "No, I'm going to leave it to God's hands."

That's takes humility that God puts in his heart and he puts into every believer's heart who expresses in this way. Because after all, it is Paul who said in Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing that which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." There you go. Beginning to end, it's his timing. So, we are accepted. Not because we are attractive to God, but because God chose to love us and place us in the beloved. To be called loved by God is the most amazing thing. This word beloved. Our entire life from from conversion to the final resurrection is a testimony to the fact that we have nothing and Christ has everything. That we carry that on throughout our lives.

We have nothing. Christ has everything. Amen. There is no in between. Not according to Paul's language. And may that be our way that we speak to each other as well. Because this is how God works in our lives as believers. God raised the dead. God completing salvation. God bringing his people home. If there is a change in your life, it is because God has moved you.

Philippians 3 chapters 3:7-11 is not a picture of Paul's efforts. It is a picture of God's grace. So as we conclude here, here is what God does. Just go through it. Verse seven again, God reveals the worthlessness of self-righteousness. Verse eight, God reveals the surpassing worth of Christ. Verse nine, God imputes Christ righteousness. Verse 10, God gives resurrection power. Continuing in verse 10, God grants fellowship in Christ's sufferings. And then verse 11, God guarantees the resurrection of the body. This is the gospel. Christ is everything. We bring nothing. God does all. With that said, let's close our eyes in prayer to pray the one that hears and answers prayers.

Thank you, Father, for what you have done in the life of Paul in this radical transformative change in the way he value life to what you value. reorienting his heart to the things that are centered in man to the things that are centered in Christ. That we have nothing and that Christ is everything.

I thank you God that we as brothers and sisters in Christ can share in these desires. Oh, but father, how we need to observe our lives even more according to Paul's writings that we still have so much to contemplate, to think of how meaningful our salvation is according to the way Paul describes salvation. I pray, Father, that you would bring to light the importance of salvation to our hearts and to our minds and to the way we live in our

life as believers, walking in step with the spirit and walking according to what pleases you in the things that pertain to Christ. that we will be the witnesses that we need to be to a lost and dying world that does not know Christ, that does not know what the words of Paul means at the level of their soul and their spirit. I pray for them as well that you would awaken them to see how important it is to know Christ, to really know him experientially, not just hearing the words and not living it. God, I pray that they may be able to experience the conviction of sin like John Bunan did and Apostle Paul that they would see from head to toe that they are altogether sin that they are bankrupt as sinners that they have nothing to offer but just more loss.

But we thank you for Christ again who is everything to those that are believers. I pray that they may see the profit, the benefit of knowing Christ as her own. To see that wherever they are right now in their bankrupt state, that in a moment, in a moment, if they will just simply look to Christ and trust him for salvation, that Christ will save them. I pray that your Holy Spirit will bring this moment of reflection, a moment of crisis, and a moment of trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ fully for salvation. Bless, Father, to this work amongst those that need to hear this this morning. bless to our hearts these words and may it continue Lord to do things in our lives that reflect your glory and exalts Christ in our lives. Bless to this end and we'll thank you in Jesus name. Amen.