

I. Intimacy With God Demands An Exchange (8)

A. Paul was ruined for this world (8a) – "Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

B. Paul was reduced in this world (8b) – "For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things..."

C. Paul was released from this world (8c) – "...and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ."
He was not mourning the cost of His commitment to Christ. He was fixated on the treasure of Christ Himself.

II. Intimacy With God Requires A Death (9-10)

A. We die to religious substitutes (9-10a) - "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 - that I may know Him..."

B. We die to all calls to doubt (10b) - "...and the power of His resurrection..."
There were 2 days when Jesus DID NOT come forth. Doubt might have crept in, but it could not deny His resurrection on Day 3

D. We die to ourselves repeatedly (10c) - "...and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in his death..."
Paul aspired to know Jesus in the intimacy of His suffering and death.

III. Intimacy With God Births A Resolve (11-14)

A. Tenacity in your soul (11-12a) – "That by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12a Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own..."

B. Gratitude in your heart (12b) – "...because Christ Jesus has made me His own."

C. Singularity in your mind (13) - "Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead..."

D. Certainty in your spirit (14) - "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."