

# To Be Like Christ

Philippians 3:7-14



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

8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, 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, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His



# Philippians 3:7-14

death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Straining Toward the Goal 12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



# Recap

- Timothy and Epaphroditus commended
- Warning against the RELIGION of Works (Jesus and...)
- Paul's Personal achievements in religion = nothing
- Because we were without -> Righteousness of Christ
- We are saved through Faith in Him and nothing else
- Paul counts all as loss... to gain Christ



# ...To Gain Christ

- To Gain Christ
  - All that he has to offer
- To Abide in Him (more on this later)
  - continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry
- Who I Desperately needed



# ...To Gain Christ

- Know Christ (knowledge through experience)
  - His ways, thoughts, nature, character, work, desire
- Know the power of His resurrection *dunamis*
  - Broke the chains death, dispelled its fear
  - Transforming power of Life set free from sin
  - Promise of Life and citizenship changes priority



# ...To Gain Christ

- Know the fellowship of His suffering
  - The good offered by association with Christ
  - But also the suffering (Better *and* worse)
  - Suffering, persecution, ridicule
- To be conformed to His death (continuous process)  
(both spiritual physical)
- So that I might attain (arrive at the end of journey)



# Not yet Obtained Perfection

- Paul stands firmly against religious elitism
- All such gains are counted as loss Entire resume!
- Yet Paul strives for the perfection of Christ
  - Not the boastful nonsense of religion
  - But the completion of the work of Christ in us
- The means to do that is often through suffering



# Pressing on

- Pressing on *pursue but also to suffer persecution 30/47 times!! Gym is a place of suffering*
- Lay hold of what Christ has laid hold of *katalambano pres. act. 2x  
seize possess to take eagerly*
- Again, have not yet laid hold of
- So forgetting what is behind (no value anyways)
- But striving towards what is ahead *forth throwing oneself forward*
- With eyes on the prize *prize brabeion, 2x 1Co 9:24 - run the race, victor in games*



# For us Today

- Are we willing to lay everything aside to have Christ?
- Will we give up our pride, laurels, and works? (\$0)
- Will we accept ALL of Christ, joy and suffering alike?
- To be like Him is to be made like Him in ALL things?
- To strive through circumstance and even persecution
- To love one another as each of us are transformed?