

# What Really Counts (Part 2)

## Philippians 3:7-11

### I. Paul's Losses (v7)

To begin with Paul lost whatever was a \_\_\_\_\_ apart from God.

When Paul measured his life against what Jesus had to offer, he realized all he held dear was \_\_\_\_\_ compared to what he had in Christ.

### II. Paul's Gains (v8-11)

#### 1. The knowledge of Christ (v8)

To know Christ means to have a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with Him through \_\_\_\_\_.

*"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." – John 17:3*

#### 2. The righteousness of Christ (v9)

Righteousness was the great goal of Paul's life when he was a Pharisee, but it was a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, that he never really could attain. But when Paul \_\_\_\_\_ Christ, he lost his own self-righteousness and gained the righteousness of Christ.

*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. – 2 Corinthians 5:21*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. – Ephesians 2:8-10*

In Romans 9:30-10:13 is a parallel passage. What it says about the nation of Israel was true for Paul's own life.

#### 3. The fellowship of Christ (v10-11)

When he became a Christian, it was not the \_\_\_\_\_ for Paul, but the \_\_\_\_\_ His experience with Christ was so tremendous that it \_\_\_\_\_ his life. And this experience continued in the years to follow.

It was also a *powerful experience* ("and the power of His resurrection"), as the resurrection power of Christ went to work in Paul's life.

*“For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God.” “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.” – Galatians 2:19-21*

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places – Ephesians 1:18-20 (see also Ephesians 3:13-21)*

It was also a \_\_\_\_\_ experience (“and the fellowship of His sufferings”). Paul knew that it was a \_\_\_\_\_ to suffer for Christ (Phil. 1:29–30). In fact, suffering had been a part of his experience from the very beginning (Acts 9:16).

For walking with Christ was also a \_\_\_\_\_ experience (“being made conformable unto His death”). Paul lived for Christ because he died to self (Romans 6 explains this); he took up his cross daily and followed Him. The result of this death was a spiritual resurrection (Philippians 3:11) that caused Paul to walk “in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

Yes, Paul gained far more than he lost. In fact, the gains were so thrilling that Paul considered all other “things” nothing but garbage in comparison! No wonder he had joy—his life did not depend on the cheap “things” of the world but on the eternal values found in Christ. Paul had the “spiritual mind” and looked at the “things” of earth from heaven’s point of view.

### **What Now?**

1. Become an accountant this week and evaluate your life for the “things” that matter most to you. How do they compare with the things Christ gives us? Are they the same?
2. Share the Gospel through your story with at least one person this week.

