

## *Philippians 3:8-9*

KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MY LORD #1

## *Philippians 3:8-9*

<sup>8</sup> 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,

<sup>9</sup> 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,

## *Paul's warning...*

- Paul started off his warning in Philippians 3:1 saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always"
- From Philippians 3:2 to the passage we are studying this morning, Paul is writing about the comparative value of things
- Paul is making a value judgment here in this morning's passage – one which will reveal what he sees as immensely valuable & what he sees as of comparatively no value at all

## *Paul lists his seven "human credentials" in Phil 3:5,6*

- circumcised the eighth day
- of the nation of Israel
- of the tribe of Benjamin
- a Hebrew of Hebrews
- as to the Law, a Pharisee
- as to zeal, a persecutor of the church
- as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

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- ← CREDENTIALS PAUL WAS BORN INTO – THAT ARE NOT HIS OWN WORKS

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- CREDENTIALS PAUL HAD BY HIS OWN WILL & EFFORTS →

### *Some (very) important questions...*

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- Before Paul was a believer, did he have “a good self-image”?
- Is it more biblical for a person to have a good self-image or a bad self-image?
- What “image” really matters...eternally?
- What does God intend that our “self image” should be like?

### *Philippians 3:7-9*

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

<sup>8</sup> 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,

<sup>9</sup> 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,

### *Key words in Philippians 3:7 (Review)*

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- **gain**: Greek kerdos = profit; the word is used in monetary terms (example: Titus 1:11, where it is used in a negative sense)
- Paul has used this same word before in Philippians 1:21, where he wrote, “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain (kerdos).”
- **loss**: Greek zemia = damage or disadvantage
- Paul used the very same word in Acts 27:10 for a total loss of cargo, ship & lives at sea

### *Key words in Philippians 3:8*

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- surpassing value (NKJV excellence): Greek huperecho
- This is a value over & above what was valued before, expressed in superlative terms. It cannot even be fairly compared with what was valued before, the difference is so vast

### *Key words in Philippians 3:8*

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- **I have counted, I count, count**: Greek hegeomai
- Paul also uses the word “hegeomai” in Philippians 2:3, 6, 25 & 3:7 & 8
- hegeomai relates to judgment, estimation, or appraisal, often made by officials in authority
- This word communicates a conclusion carefully considered, with a full understanding of the consequences & import of the decision

### *Key words in Philippians 3:8*

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- **rubbish**: Greek skubalon (the only use of this word in the NT)
- This word is thought to be a compound of the words kuon (the disgusting pack of roaming ownerless dogs) + ballō (throw) = things thrown to the disgusting pack of roaming dogs
- This word is used in secular writings to describe refuse of grain, chaff, or of a table, of slaughtered animals, of dung or sewage

### *Public Bathroom at Philippi*



### *Key words in Philippians 3:8*

- **knowing** (KJV: the knowledge): Greek gnōsis
- This refers to the personal knowledge of Christ & relationship with Him. It is the knowledge of one who sees himself as the beloved of the Lord & loves Christ in response to His love for us (1 John 4:19)
- This is the initial focal point of Paul's value comparison

### *Key words in Philippians 3:9*

- **righteousness**: Greek dikaiosisune
- The key issue with this word, used twice in verse 9, is **the source** of the righteousness...
- Paul writes about "...**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..."
- \*Greek **alla** = in great contrast

### *Key words in Philippians 3:9*

- **faith**: Greek pistis = faith, belief, trust
- Righteousness does not come through generalized "faith" in just anything, but specifically through faith **in Christ**. Christ must be **the object** of our faith (Romans 3:21-26)
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-14 makes it clear that human beings can place faith in falsehoods, but only faith in Christ, who is the truth, results in His righteousness in us

### *Philippians 3:8 (Expanded)*

<sup>8</sup> Beyond that, I have a perspective such that I now continually count all things to be entered in my personal ledger as a loss in view of realizing the surpassing value, above all present and former things, of the personal knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all the things I once valued as a gain in my personal ledger, and now continue to count them in value only a totally worthless waste on the basis that I have in the past gained Christ,

### *Philippians 3:9 (Expanded)*

<sup>9</sup> and in order that I will be found by Him in Him, not then or now having a righteousness from my own self-efforts which has been achieved by keeping the Mosaic Law and the human traditions added to it by the Pharisees, but in sharp contrast, that righteousness which is completely through faith, trust and confidence in the person and work of Christ, that is, the very eternally established measure of absolute righteousness which is Christ Himself, which comes from God only on the basis of faith in Christ,

## *Some (very) important questions...*

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- Before Paul was a believer, did he have “a good self image”?
- Is it more biblical for a person to have a good self image or a bad self image?
- What “image” really matters...eternally?
- What does God intend that our “self image” should be like?

## *2 Corinthians 3:18*

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<sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

## *Romans 8:28-29*

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<sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

## *Some (very) important questions...*

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- Before Paul was a believer, did he have “a good self image”? [Yes! But once He was “in Christ”, he came to see that ‘good self image’ as worthless]
- Is it more biblical for a person to have a good self image or a bad self image? [To see oneself as “in Christ”, being conformed to His image as we behold Him through His word]
- What “image” really matters...eternally? [Beholding Christ, and so being transformed into the very image of Christ]
- What does God intend that our “self image” should be like? [“In Christ”, whom we behold through His word]

## *What is of value*

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- the sake of Christ
- knowing Christ Jesus my Lord
- to gain Christ
- to be found in Him
- righteousness which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith