

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

TO BE FOUND IN CHRIST

Philippians 3:7-11

Introduction (Review)

We continue this Sunday what we began last Sunday – looking at Paul's personal testimony in Philippians 3. Focus last week (vv.4-9): the transformation in Paul's thinking from confidence in his own works (4-6) to faith in Christ alone for his acceptance with God. Paul came to see that all he could have bragged of before God was worthless; & trusting in Christ, he received a perfect righteousness from God as a gift ("justification").

BUT THAT IS NOT ALL ...

1. The loss of **ALL** things

This was literal and very real in Paul's case.

He went from an esteemed Jewish leader with a secure future, to being homeless, hated, persecuted, and finally imprisoned. Yet he gave up all he had once possessed willingly. **WHY?**

2. To gain Christ and be found in Him.

What an exchange: What he had thought was gain he gave up, to truly gain what is of greatest worth -

Jesus Christ Himself, the eternal Son of God, the Lord of all.

"found in Him"? found by whom? By God.

Do you want God to look on you and see your filthy rags of self-righteousness?

Or do you want God to see you "in Christ", His perfect Son?

Christ is the treasure, the pearl of surpassing value (Matt.13:44-46), well worth anything and everything you give to have Him.

And if you have Christ, what else to you have?

3. What do we gain in Christ?

- His perfect righteousness in justification.
- A personal relationship of "knowing Him"
- The power of His resurrection working in you now
- Fellowship in His sufferings, even the likeness of His death.
- The certainty of your future resurrection from the dead (v.11).

4. Must I actually give up all I have to receive Christ?

No ... BUT ...

- You must regard all you might be proud of before God as worthless in comparison to His perfect standard – that your faith may be wholly in Christ.
- You regard all you have and are as expendable for Him.
 - This is the fellowship of His suffering,
 - and for this you must have the power of His resurrection.

Kevin Thompson (RCCS):

The law of God is satisfied in Christ. The wrath of God is satisfied in Christ.

Please, Lord, let me be satisfied in Christ.