

The Book of Philippians
“Counting it all as Loss”
8/21/2016 Sunday AM

Scripture Verses: Philippians 3:4-11

Sermon Notes

- Last week we spoke about Distinctive Qualities of a True Christian and those were: Truly worshipping God with our lives, rejoicing in Christ and his glory despite worldly trials, and putting no confidence in our flesh.
- These were contrast with the Deceptive Qualities where people think that past events, living a good life, having a mere knowledge of the Gospel, and acting religious all showed someone was saved.
- God is calling us to a higher standard of living that that of this world and as Christians we should exhibit Distinctive Qualities that differentiate us from the world.
- The main point is that we cannot rely on ourselves and our flesh, we must rely on Christ.
- This morning we will discuss Counting it all as Loss.

Philippians 3:4-11

⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence. ⁵If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. ⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- Paul speaks in v.7 about Profit and Loss which are some accounting terms.
- Think about two columns this morning, one is for Profit, the other is for Loss.
- Paul's whole message is illustrating how he moved things that he once considered in his Profit column, to his Loss column.
- We are going to focus this morning on the 7 things that are underlined in the verses in these notes.
- As we know from Acts 9, Paul was converted to Christianity by the risen Jesus Christ who met him on the road to Damascus.
- It was at that point that Paul turned his life around. He stopped persecuting Christians and going against God, and instead began to live for God and became the greatest evangelist the world has ever seen.
- In Philippians 3:5-6 Paul lists some things that at one time, he thought were Profit.
 1. He was circumcised on the eighth day
 2. He was an Israelite
 3. He was from the Tribe of Benjamin
 4. He was a devote Hebrew
 5. He was a Pharisee
 6. He had zeal and devotion
 7. He was legalistically righteous.
- Many people today continue to rely on themselves for salvation and we will take a look at how these 7 things apply to us today in 2016.

Rituals

- Paul thought (before he was saved) that just because he was circumcised on the eighth day as Leviticus 12:3 says, he was righteous.
- No ritual that we can perform will save us or make us righteous before God.
- Taking the Lord's Supper or Communion, Baptism, Christening, Praying the Rosary...none make someone righteous.

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Heritage

- Paul was an Israelite and was a part of the chosen people of God. However, just because he was born “from good stock” does not mean that he himself possessed righteousness.
- Just like us today, just because our parents or grandparents were saved and lived for Christ, does not mean that we ourselves are saved or live for Christ.
- The mere fact that we are Americans, Southerners, or Georgians doesn’t help us either.

Rank

- Paul was “of the tribe of Benjamin” which was a very prominent Hebrew tribe, maybe the most prominent.
- Paul was ranking himself pretty high here, however just like his heritage as an Israelite, him being from the Tribe of Benjamin did not make him righteous either.
- Our social status of being born into a prominent family or even achieving prominence in our lives does not guarantee our salvation.
- Your title at work, no matter how high, does not trump your title and rank as a Christian.
- This is a major issue for people in our world today, they believe that their earthly status translates into their heavenly status, and that can be very misleading.

Traditions

- Paul says that he was a “Hebrew of Hebrews.” This was a reference to how strictly he held to his roots as a Hebrew and all of the traditions that come with that.
- What would it mean to be a Christian of Christians? Think about that for a moment.
- Much of what we do today is rooted more in tradition than it is in the Bible.
- We have to make sure that we are not focusing more on tradition than we are on the Scripture.
- Here at United Community Church, I try to lead in such a way that we do not allow traditions to become more important than God’s commands.
- Change is not always a bad thing, Jesus made a lot of changes to the way they were doing things!

Religion

- Paul was a Pharisee which was a Jewish religious teacher and leader.
- We much watch out that Religion does not get in the way of Righteousness.
- All of the added rules of religion can get in the way of salvation.
- Baptists, Methodist, Catholics, Presbyterians, Holiness, Pentecostals...these denominations have formed their own version of what Christianity looks like and many of them operate as if they are the only ones going to make it to heaven.
- One has to be sure that your religious beliefs are rooted in the Bible, not in man’s opinions.

Devotion

- Paul was zealous and totally devoted to persecuting Christians in his early years. This devotion from a Jewish standpoint would have been of great value.
- Zeal and Devotion are wonderful, but we must watch out what we are zealous about and to what are we devoted to. Being devoted to sin or sinful acts, does not translate into righteousness.

Legally Righteous

- Paul said that he was “faultless” when it came to being obedient to the law and legalism.
- You can obey every law of man and God and still not be righteous, it’s not about what we can or cannot do.
- V. 9 says, “and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.”
- Paul counted all of these things as a loss because he came to know that his righteousness only came from God through faith.
- Take a look at your life today, are you putting things in the profit column that shouldn’t be there?
- Let’s make sure to move EVERYTHING apart from Christ to the loss column!