

Text Outline **Philippians 3:7-21**

I. ⁷ But

A. **whatever were gains to me**

1. **I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.**
2. ⁸ **What is more, I**
 - a) *consider everything a loss*
 - b) *because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,*
3. **for whose sake I have lost all things.**
4. **I consider them garbage,**

B. **that I may**

1. **gain Christ**
2. ⁹ **and be found in him,**
 - a) *not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,*
 - b) *but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—*
 - c) *the righteousness that comes*
 - (1) from God
 - (2) on the basis of faith.
3. ¹⁰ **I want to know Christ—yes,**
 - a) *to know the power of his resurrection*
 - b) *and participation in his sufferings,*
 - c) *becoming like him in his death,*
 - d) ¹¹ *and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

II. ¹² Not

A. **That**

1. **I**
 - a) *have already obtained all this,*
 - b) *or have already arrived at my goal,*
2. **but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.**

B. ¹³ **Brothers and sisters, I**

1. **do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it.**
2. **But one thing I do:**
 - a) *Forgetting what is behind and*
 - b) *straining toward what is ahead,*
3. ¹⁴ **I press on toward the goal**
 - a) *to win the prize*
 - b) *for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*

III. ¹⁵ **All of us,**

A. **then,**

1. **who**

- a) *are mature*
 - b) *should take such a view of things.*
- 2. **And**
 - a) *if on some point you think differently,*
 - b) *that too God will make clear to you.*
- 3. ¹⁶ **Only let us live up to what we have already attained.**
- B. ¹⁷ **Join together in**
 - 1. **Following**
 - a) *my example, brothers and sisters,*
 - b) *and just as you have us as a model,*
 - c) *keep your eyes on those who live as we do.*
 - 2. ¹⁸ **For,**
 - a) *as I have often told you*
 - (1) before and
 - (2) now tell you again even with tears,
 - b) *many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.*
 - (1) ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction,
 - (2) their god is their stomach,
 - (3) and their glory is in their shame.
 - (4) Their mind is set on earthly things.
 - c) ²⁰ **But**
 - (1) our citizenship is in heaven.
 - (2) And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,
 - (a) ²¹ *who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control,*
 - (b) *will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.*

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Conceptual Outline

I. The Surpassing Worth of Christ

A. Comparing past gains with Christ

1. consider past gains as loss
2. consider everything a loss
3. lost all things for Christ's sake
4. consider them garbage

B. Paul's new aim in life

1. to gain Christ
2. be found in him
 - a) *not with a righteousness of his own or from the law*
 - b) *but with the righteousness from God through faith in Christ*
3. to know Christ
 - a) *to know*
 - (1) the power of his resurrection
 - (2) the participation in his sufferings
 - b) *becoming like him in his death*
 - c) *attaining to the resurrection from the dead*

II. Paul's Mindset

A. Not consider that he has arrived at his goal

B. Press on toward the goal

1. to take hold of that which Christ Jesus intended for him
2. Forgetting what is behind & straining forward

III. An Invitation

A. to the mature to follow his example in living purposeful lives

B. Reasons for unity in goal

1. Many live like enemies of the cross
2. We are citizens of heaven
3. We await a Savior & Lord who will
 - a) *bring everything under his control*
 - b) *transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body*

Theme: Because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ, Paul considers everything garbage and set his goal to know Christ.

Questions:

Read through out loud. [It will be best to NOT read silently first because the first question will already allot that time to do so.]

1) Take a closer look of versus 7 to 13, what are different contrasts or comparisons that Paul mentioned?

1a) What are the different things that Paul is willing to consider loss and is desiring now? How are they similar/different?

1b) What are the 2 different kinds of righteousness that Paul is comparing?

1c) How can we gain Christ & the righteousness from God?

1d) Now that we know that all things are garbage compared with Christ. What happens if we do not really consider them as loss? What are different areas that are preventing you from gaining Christ and being found in him?

2a) From vs 10-11, Paul says that he wants to know Christ, what specifics does he want to know Christ?

2b) The following passages might help us understand the meanings of what Paul wants to know better. Read each of the passages clearly & slowly, ask members to meditate on what it looks like to Participate in his death, Understand the power of his resurrection, and Being transformed from our old self, respectively. Then, have them briefly share any insight.

1) Participation in Death

Col 2:12-13

Col 3:5

2) Power of his resurrection

Eph 1:17-23

Col 3:1

3) Resurrection/Transformation from old self(spiritual resurrection)(will later in vs 21 talk about the physical resurrection of our actual bodies)

Romans 8:6-11

Rom 6:4-12

Passages:

Colossians 2:12-13-New International Version (NIV)

¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you^[a] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

Colossians 3:5-New International Version (NIV)

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Ephesians 1:17-23-New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit^[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Colossians 3:1-New International Version (NIV)

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

³ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Romans 6:4-12-New International Version (NIV)

⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Romans 8:6-11-New International Version (NIV)

⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if

Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life^[a] because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of^[b] his Spirit who lives in you.

Colossians 2:12-13

¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which (you /____) (were/was) also raised with him through (your/____'s) faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When (you /____) were(was) dead in (your / his/her) sins and in the uncircumcision of (your/____'s) flesh, God made (you /____) alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

Colossians 3:5

[NAME] ⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Ephesians 1:17

¹⁷ I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give (you /____) the Spirit^[a] of wisdom and revelation, so that (you /____) may know him better. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of (your/____'s) heart may be enlightened in order that (you /____) may know the hope to which he has called (you /____), the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Colossians 3:1

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

[NAME] Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Romans 6:4-12

⁴ (We____and____) were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, (we____and____) too may live a new life. ⁵ For if (we____and____) have been united with him in a death like his, (we____and____) will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For (we____and____) know that our(their) old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, ^[a] that (we____and____) should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if (we____and____) died with Christ, (we____and____) believe that (we____and____) will also live with him. ⁹ For (we____and____) know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves, (____ and ____) dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Therefore (____ and ____) do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Romans 8:6-11

⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ (You / _____) , however, are(is) not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in (you / _____) . And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in (you / _____) , then even though (your/ _____ 's) body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life^[a] because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in (you / ____ and ____) , he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to (your/ ____ and ____ 's) mortal bodies because of^[b] his Spirit who lives in (you/ and ____) .

2c) What does this power and the participation in his suffering allow us to do?

2d) What might be the significance of Paul placing 1-to know the power of his resurrection, 2- participation in his sufferings, 3- becoming like him in his death, and 4-somehow attaining to the resurrection from the dead, in this order?

3a) Read vs.12-14, what is Paul's new attitude about his achievements? How is this attitude different from the way he looked at himself in 3:6? How is he working toward his new goal in life?

3b) Since we cannot gain righteousness on our own, why is Paul working so hard, pressing on and straining? How is this pressing on different from his former pursue?

4) From versus 7-14, Paul is using himself as an example, can you name the stages/progression he goes through in getting to know Christ?

4b) Allow me to read vs 10-13 to your again. Keep in your mind what Paul wants and what stage he was in when he wrote this.

4b₂) As you listened and think about Paul, where do you stand on this spectrum?

How does your ideal compare with Paul's ideal?

Food for thought: Paul has lost everything for the sake of knowing Christ? Are we ready to identify with Christ as well?

5) From vs 15-21, who is the audience that Paul is speaking to, describe these people? What is he instructing them to do?

5b) Why are we called to join together? What are the dangers if we don't join together?

6) Vs 15-21 is a call for us to join Paul and other believers to live this new life. We know and have the power of Christ's resurrection to help us live this new life. Earlier we talked about the stage we are in, are you ready to identify with Christ and press on toward the goal to win the prize? Name 2 things you can practically do this month to press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called you heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Questions & Potential Answers:

1) Take a closer look of versus 7 to 13, what are different contrasts or comparisons that Paul mentioned?

Contrasts

- Wants and don't wants(values/don't value)
- righteousness of his own vs. righteousness from God
- past ideals vs current condition & new life goal

1a) What are the different things that Paul is willing to consider loss and is desiring now? How are they similar/different?

Consider Loss

1. What were gains
2. Everything---consider a loss(in the mind)
3. All thing---actually lost all things(in action)
4. Own righteousness from law

New Desires

1. Surpassing worth of Knowing Christ Jesus my Lord
2. Living/Doing for Christ's sake
3. Gain Christ
4. Be found in Him.

Loss	Similar/Difference	New Desires
Past Gains	Shift in value and mindset	Living/Doing for Christ's Sake
Everything	Shift in value and mindset	Surpassing worth of knowing Christ
All things	Gaining all things vs gaining Christ and being found in him (Focus on my gain vs just being found and gaining Christ)	Gain Christ and be found in Him
Own righteousness from the law	Different forms of righteousness	Righteousness from God through faith in Jesus

1b) What are the 2 different kinds of righteousness that Paul is comparing?

1. His own from the law
2. From God on the basis of(through) faith in Christ.

1c) How can we gain Christ & the righteousness from God?

1. We cannot by our own works gain Christ but we can gain Christ through faith. This goes back to the gains and loss because Paul no longer can "consider" his past achievements as act of righteousness. We must recognize that we cannot save ourselves. Knowing Christ means that we need to know that salvation is from Christ when we put our faith in him. We can only depend on Him.

2. Also, we did not and could not have found Christ but we are to be found in Christ. Once again it isn't anything we can take on as our own credit or can boast about. It is the best thing that can ever happen to us. Christ found us, is granting us the righteousness from God, and

allowing us to gain Christ to know him, all on the basis of faith. When we come to this point, if we really put our faith in Christ Jesus and recognize His great worth that he is granting us to gain, we cannot HELP but to be like Paul and consider everything else a loss in comparison to knowing Christ.

1d) Now that we know that all things are garbage compared with Christ. What happens if we do not really consider them as loss? What are different areas that are preventing you from gaining Christ and being found in him?

We'll be holding on to a LOT of garbage. It is a huge pity to know that something is worthless but to still value garbage instead of making the shift in attitude, mind, and action to really consider and treat garbage as garbage. When we value garbage over Christ, what are we saying about the worth of Christ? When we value both Christ and garbage, we equate the value of Christ as garbage in our hearts...and that should be a huge no...

2a) From vs 10-11, Paul says that he wants to know Christ, what specifics does he want to know Christ?

- know and experience the POWER of his resurrection
 - the power that raised Him from death
 - the power that enables us to live resurrected lives
- PARTICIPATION in his suffering and identifying with his DEATH -truly identify with him.

- RESURRECTION from the dead
 - death to our flesh & old self daily
 - resurrection of our bodies to come

2b) The following passages might help us understand the meanings of what Paul wants to know better. Read each of the passages clearly & slowly, ask members to meditate on what it looks like to Participate in his death, Understand the power of his resurrection, and Being transformed from our old self, respectively. Then, have them briefly share any insight.

1) Participation in Death

Col 2:12-13

Col 3:5

2) Power of his resurrection

Eph 1:17-23

Col 3:1

3) Resurrection/Transformation from old self(spiritual resurrection)(will later in vs 21 talk about the physical resurrection of our actual bodies)

Romans 8:6-11

Rom 6:4-12

2c) What does this power and the participation in his suffering allow us to do?

Power: Allows us to live our "resurrected" life considering all this loss and losing all things.

Participation: Allows us to know Christ and become like him in his death because it is just Oh SO GOOD to know Christ.

2d) What might be the significance of Paul placing 1-to know the power of his resurrection, 2-participation in his sufferings, 3- becoming like him in his death, and 4-somehow attaining to the resurrection from the dead, in this order?

- 1st-Claim his power so that we can
- 2-participate in his suffering which is impossible for us to do by our own power
- 1st-We must first die to our old self before we can
- 2-be resurrected from the dead to live our new life with his power.

3a) Read vs.12-14, what is Paul's new attitude about his achievements? How is this attitude different from the way he looked at himself in 3:6? How is he working toward his new goal in life?

He does not consider that he's arrived. In the past, he was proud, satisfied with himself as "perfect." He's pressing, forgetting, straining toward a goal to win a prize.

3b) Since we cannot gain righteousness on our own, why is Paul working so hard, pressing on and straining? How is this pressing on different from his former pursue?

The goal is different - own pride & righteousness vs. know Christ more; the prize God intended for him.

The source of strength is different - His power

The motivation is different - attracted/compelled by love

Zeal/drive/hard work are similar

4) From versus 7-14, Paul is using himself as an example, can you name the stages/progression he goes through in getting to know Christ?

Consider loss - consider everything loss - lost all things - consider them garbage - gain Christ - be found in him with His righteousness - press on to know the power of this resurrection - participate in his suffering - identify with his death - attaining resurrection from the dead

4b) Allow me to read vs 10-13 to you again. Keep in your mind what Paul wants and what stage he was in when he wrote this.

4b₂) As you listened and think about Paul, where do you stand on this spectrum?

How does your ideal compare with Paul's ideal?

Food for thought: Paul has lost everything for the sake of knowing Christ? Are we ready to identify with Christ as well?

5) From vs 15-21, who is the audience that Paul is speaking to, describe these people? What is he instructing them to do?

Audience:

- All of us
- The Mature(those that are considering themselves mature but still have room for God to work in them)
- brothers and sisters
- Not enemies of the cross, minds NOT set on earthly things
- Citizens of heaven: Jesus is Lord
- Resurrected from old self....waiting for transformation of lowly bodies

To do:

- Allow God to make things clear to you
- Live up to what you have already attained
- Join together
 - Follow Paul's example, keep eyes on other good examples
 - There are enemies of the cross
 - We have the same citizenship in heaven
 - We have the same Lord from Heaven
 - Our Lord will bring everything under his control(Ch 2:9-11)
 - With the same power will transform our lowly bodies

5b) Why are we called to join together? What are the dangers if we don't join together?

- Join together
 - o Follow Paul's example, keep eyes on other good examples
 - o There are enemies of the cross
 - o We have the same citizenship in heaven
 - o We have the same Lord from Heaven
 - o Our Lord will bring everything under his control(Ch 2:9-11)
 - o With the same power will transform our lowly bodies
- Dangers
 - o Not united to face enemies
 - o Make live like enemies of the cross
 - o Reflection that we are not "like minded"(Phil 2:2), not taking on Paul's example and ultimately not taking on Jesus' example.
 - o Not recognizing our citizenship and that Jesus is the Lord of all of us
 - o Not waiting/be prepared for Christ return
 - o Not recognizing what a lowly state we are in and the need for our transformation

6) Vs 15-21 is a call for us to join Paul and other believers to live this new life. We know and have the power of Christ's resurrection to help us live this new life. Earlier we talked about the stage we are in, are you ready to identify with Christ and press on toward the goal to win the prize? Name 2 things you can practically do this month to press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called you heavenward in Christ Jesus.