

Eyes on the Prize

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Renounce Everything for Christ

Phil. 3:7-14

Feb. 3, 2019

Human credentials, especially in matters of faith, are only rubbish. All that matters is my relationship with Christ. Holman NT Commentary

Unifying Principle:

People strive to enhance their standing before others by calling attention to their abilities and honors. What is the proper attitude toward our accomplishments? Paul told the Philippians that he willingly suffered the loss of his accomplishments for the greater goal of gaining and being found in Christ.

On Your Mark!

Phil. 3:7-9

Paul sought to win Christ (7-11)

- a. He had counted his own righteousness loss: (7) *A past experience*. When Paul spoke of his gains, he was referring to his advantages and credentials. Despite his great qualifications, Paul had come to regard them as loss. All the qualifications no longer mattered because of Christ. Paul had learned that nothing he could do would earn him salvation.
- b. Paul had counted all things as waste. (8) *A continuous experience*. When a person has made the decision to seek after Christ, he is to continue to seek after the knowledge of Christ. The words “have suffered” mean to forfeit and to cast away.
- c. Paul sought to be found in Christ: (9) *A future experience*. Paul was looking ahead either to death or to the return of Christ. When Christ returned or when Paul died, Paul wanted to be found in Christ.

Get Set!

Phil. 3:10-11

- d. Paul sought a *victorious experience* with Christ: (10) To know Christ is:
 - Power of His resurrection: Believers are to experience the same power that raised Christ.
 - Fellowship of His sufferings: Paul wanted to share in the purpose for which Christ was suffering.
 - Conformable to His death: Jesus Christ subjected Himself totally to God. He did only what God willed and desired.

- e. Paul sought to be resurrected from the dead: (11) *An eternal experience* with Christ. Paul sought to use all means-to commit himself totally-for this one great purpose. This was Paul's way of humbly stating that he trusted in God for his complete salvation.

Paul did not count himself as having yet arrived. (12-14)

Go!

Phil. 3:12-14

- a. He follows after his God-given purpose. (12) *Obtain* or *attain* can mean to take hold of, to receive, to make one's own, to apprehend in the moral or spiritual sense. There is more to receive by pressing on. God has apprehended the believer for one reason only: to perfect the believer. No person achieves perfection on this earth. Perfection means eternal life.
- b. He worked at forgetting the past. (13) In one focused act, we must forget the things that are past and reach forth to those things that are before us. The things of the past are to be forgotten. The things of the future are to be the focus of the mind. Unlike the Judaizers, Paul did not consider that he had achieved spiritual maturity; he was he was not perfect, but he lived in absolute confidence of his ultimate salvation.
- c. He pressed on toward the goal. (14) What is God's purpose for us in Christ Jesus?_God's purpose for us is to be conformed to the image of Christ. Once we are perfect...
- We shall be incorruptible and eternal.
 - We shall live in honor and glory.
 - We shall live in God's perfect presence and power.

Principle: God will never love you more, or love you less, than he does right now.

References: Holman NT Commentary

Life Application Commentary