

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 32

Chapter 3, verses 8-14: Pressing Toward the Mark of Christ's Likeness

28 November 2022

Review:

4-7 Paul was more righteous in his deeds of the flesh than any other man, but he acknowledged that the things he once counted as gain, he now happily counts as loss, and depends only on the finished work of Jesus Christ and the grace of God.

Vs 8 Paul now counts his good works and his strict adherence to religion to be as worthless as garbage.

- Paul did not count it a loss or a sacrifice to give up every aspect of his former life to follow Jesus Christ. No regret, no sadness, no mourning, only happiness and contentment.

The same righteousness of Jesus Christ that saves a person and enables them to go to heaven is also necessary to live a life like Jesus Christ. Christ's righteousness enables you to live like a saved person today.

Vs 10 **"That I may know him, AND the power of his resurrection."** Paul, as a saved man, already knew Jesus Christ, but he wanted more. He wanted to experience Christ's resurrection power in his life so he could live his life like Jesus lived His life.

- Paul happily forsook his old life of self-love, self-worth, and self-interest to learn how to live a selfless life like Jesus Christ lived.
- Many preachers today promote a "Christianity" that uses God to help you love yourself, exalt yourself, promote yourself, and glorify yourself. That is not Christianity.
 - Biblical Christianity involves denying yourself gladly, without complaint, for the benefit of others

Vs 11 **"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."** This is not Paul hoping he'll be saved. He is saved. This is Paul desiring to live the resurrection life that he has today. He wants to live now the way he'll live in eternity.

- Step one in that process is to get rid of everything that pertains to your old life, counting it as dung.

Vs 12 **"Not as though I had already attained..."** Paul had already attained salvation. That's not what he's talking about here. **"...that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."** Jesus Christ has already apprehended salvation for me. Now I want to apprehend (lay hold on) the very life that Jesus wants me to live. I want to be as much *like* Christ as I am *saved* by Christ. I'm not there yet.

Vs 13 **"Forgetting those things which are behind (former life), and reaching forth unto those things which are BEFORE..."** (being found in heaven to be completely like Jesus Christ). Reach for it now!

Vs 14 **"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."** Pursue right now the life you will live when you get to heaven.
