

Daily Bible Readings

Our Reading Prep For: 22 January 2023

Gaining in Jesus Christ

Monday: The Value of Each Other (**Matthew 18:10-14**)

Tuesday: You Are of More Value (**Matthew 10:26-29**)

Wednesday: The Value of the Spiritual (**Romans 2:17-29**)

Thursday: The Value of the Kingdom (**Matthew 13:44-53**)

Friday: The True Value in Following Jesus (**Luke 8:23-27**)

Saturday: No Value in Earthly Achievements (**Philippians 3:1-6**)

Sunday: The Surpassing of Value if Knowing Christ (**Philippians 3:7-11**)

Gaining in Jesus Christ

Bible Background • **Philippians 3:1–11**

Printed Text • **Philippians 3:7–11**

Devotional Reading • **Matthew 13:44–46**

Keep in Mind: “*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.” (Philippians 3:7)*

Aim for Change

“By the end of the lesson, we will: **DISCOVER** Paul’s attitude about the value of knowing Christ Jesus; **EXAMINE** feelings of achieving honors compared to feelings of living a life in Christ; and **ESTABLISH** a lifelong goal of measuring our achievements against the value of knowing Jesus Christ.”

In Focus

“Knowing Christ changes one’s life more than anything else. Have you accepted Him into your heart and life? What changes has He brought about in you? The Apostle Paul teaches that we should strive to gain in Jesus Christ, not in worldly values.”

Focal Verses

Philippians 3: 7–11

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

11 if, by any means, I may attain[b] to the resurrection from the dead.

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

Background: “In chapter three, Paul warned the Philippians about the dangers of a distorted religion. He railed against the problem of having confidence in the flesh versus the knowledge of Christ. With fatherly concern for the congregation, Paul warned them about people who could lead them astray. He was also concerned about people who trusted more in themselves and their accomplishments. None, however, had reason to boast, according to Paul.

“Paul himself had as much reason as anyone else. Paul had a background that was impressive by any standard, but especially by Hebrew qualifications. He understood from personal experience what it meant to have all the prized religious values, virtues, and achievements, only to discover that it was not the be-all and end-all of life. Paul was born out of the tribe of Benjamin and was circumcised on the eighth day, according to the Law. Paul was a “Hebrew of the Hebrews” (Philippians 3:5). He was trained and educated as a Pharisee and used that knowledge to persecute the church. If anyone had reason to place confidence in his own ability and knowledge, it was Paul.”

“Libertine: These people who were trying to become a part of the early Christian church believed they were essentially a soul or spirit. To them, the body was only a temporary house, having no long-term value or significance. They held a dual view of life—spiritual matter is good and physical matter is evil or worthless. They believed that the body was insignificant and therefore claimed the freedom to do with it as they pleased. The tribe of Benjamin occupies the smallest territory of any of the twelve Hebrew tribes. Despite its size, however, the tribe played a significant role in Israel’s history. Saul, the first ruler of Israel, was a Benjaminite. During the latter period of the judges, the Benjamin tribe practically disappeared from history when it mistreated a Levite and his concubine (Judges 19–20). But Jews were always proud when they could trace their lineage back to one of the tribes of Israel.”

II. In Depth

1. All Is Gain Through Christ (Philippians 3:7–9)

2. What It Means to Know Christ (Philippians 3 10–11)

III. Closing Prayer