



Profit & Loss

How to value the eternal over the temporal.

Philippians 3:1-11

Philippians 3:1-11 – ¹Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

²Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised 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. (New International Version)

3:1 – Why did Paul exhorted the Philippians to rejoice?

2:2-3 – What does it mean to “*put no confidence in the flesh*”?

Who are the “*mutilators of the flesh*” in our day and why should we watch out for them?

How does a salvation-by-works perspective affect a person’s workplace performance?

3:4-6 – What were Paul’s credentials for having confidence in the flesh?

What kind of credentials might people think earns them favor with God today?

3:7-8 – Why did Paul change his view of his credentials?

What credentials are valued in the workplace?

What workplace credentials have value for the sake of Christ?

What does it mean to lose all things for the sake of Christ?

3:9 – What kind of righteousness did Paul value and why did he value it?

How does righteousness come by faith?

How is a person’s righteousness related to their accomplishments?

3:10-11 – What did Paul want to know about Christ?

How does knowing Christ help us at work?

How does knowing the power of Christ’s resurrection help us?

What value is there in sharing the suffering of Christ?

How may we become like Christ in His death at work?

How does a desire to be resurrected help us in the here and now at work?