

Losses that bring gains
Philippians 3:7-14
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the losses and gains of the Apostle Paul.

Intro:

1. Have you ever gain up something to obtain or gain something else instead?
2. If you were carrying a backpack through life what would you have in it? Are there some things in the backpack that you should really give up?
 - a. Sinful habits
 - b. Friendly relationships that tempt you to sin.
 - c. etc

I. Losses

- A. His prestige (position) among the Jews.
 1. If someone was going to boast about their “fleshly” accomplishments, Paul says no one had more reasons to boast than him. (v.4)
 2. Paul reviews his “accomplishments” prior to his conversion (v.5-6)
- B. He suffered fleshly losses
 1. Paul gave up what he thought, at one time, was important in order gain the knowledge of Christ (v.7-8)
 - a. Paul gave up what he had been doing his entire life.
 - b. He lost friends and alienated those who had labored alongside for his entire life.
 - c. Basically everyone of his acquaintances turned against him, sound familiar?
 - i. **Jeremiah 20:10**

II. His Gains

- A. Gaining righteousness
 1. Paul gained righteousness from God, that is He was counted as righteous (pleasing to God) by God and not by man (v.9)
 2. Paul says he did these things to gain fellowship with Christ and to be partaker with Him (v.10-11).
- B. The Prize
 1. Paul says he has not obtained this prize yet, nor or his work complete, but he presses on working for the Lord to obtain that prize that is in Christ (v.12).
 2. Paul says he has left his old life behind to obtain the prize, the “upward call” in Christ (v.13-14).
 - a. Paul emphasis forgetting those things behind and reaching ahead. Christ reminds us of the same (Lk 9:61-62)
 3. Paul encourages us all to have the same mind as this, to put the old man behind and to press towards the prize (v.15-16)

III. Lessons for us today.

- A. Some gains are worth the cost.
 1. **In life man must lose some things to obtain other more worthy things.**

2. Spiritual speaking, we leave behind our life of sin in order to gain the forgiveness and the heavenly home.

B. Sacrifices are a part of the Christian life.

1. To improve in any area of life requires hard work and sacrifice.

2. Spiritual speaking this is no different.

a. To gain heaven requires working to grow spiritually and sacrifice worldliness to obtain the reward.

Application & Conclusion:

1. When the Saul left everything to follow Christ – he did just that.
 - a. He left behind friends and acquaintances.
 - b. Teachers
 - c. Those who looked to up to him for persecuting the church, etc
2. In order to obtain heaven, we too will have to sacrifice things and some relationships, the question is are you willing to do so? Is heaven worth it?
3. As a Christian what should be in our daily backpack and would it fit through the “narrow gate”?
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9