

Sermon Title: Even If I Lose Everything [Philippians 3:1-11]
by: Pastor Alan Hannah

Big idea: *What we gain in Christ exceeds what we lose in Him.*

We accumulate everything. In Philippians 3 that Paul flips this idea completely on its head. He measures life by what he's willing to lose.

Scripture 1: Philippians 3:1 NLT

¹*Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.*

Whatever happens is “even if” language. Paul is saying your joy has a location... it is IN THE LORD.

Paul wants to safeguard, protect, guard the Philippians’ and our faith against danger. The danger that Paul sees that could threaten their/our faith is the belief that Jesus isn’t enough.

Scripture 2: Philippians 3:2 NLT (The Threat to Our Faith)

²*Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved.*

Those people were Judaizers, Jewish Christians who believed that faith in Jesus wasn’t enough.

The moment you add ANYTHING to Jesus, you’ve actually subtracted what really matters.

Scripture 3: Philippians 3:4-8 NLT (Paul’s Loss)

⁴*though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! ⁵I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. ⁷I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ...*

Paul had not just religious achievement but all the things that gave him real, tangible security in the Roman world.

Scripture 4: Philippians 3:10-11 NLT (Knowing Christ In Suffering)

¹⁰*I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!*

Paul wants 3 things... to know (intimate and experiential knowledge) Christ, to experience His power, and to experience His suffering.

The rejoicing isn’t about what’s happening to you. It’s about who’s with you in what’s happening.

Life Group Discussion Questions

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WARM-UPS:

1. Thinking back to childhood: What was the one item or accomplishment you were most proud of? Regarding current life: What is a “gain” (achievement, comfort, possession) that you would find hardest to give up?
2. Reflecting on faith: When you first started following Jesus, did you focus more on what you were gaining or what you were losing?

DISCUSSION:

1. Which of the “Even If” messages have been most impactful or meaningful to you? Why?
2. What situation and choice in life have you faced where you had to answer, “What would you be willing to lose?”
3. What were the circumstance(s) where you chose and experienced “joy” or “rejoicing” in the Lord?
4. In your Christian walk, what dangers have been threats to your faith and adding anything to Jesus?
5. Pastor Alan said, “What he (Horatio Spafford) had in Jesus, the presence of Jesus, the intimate knowledge of knowing Jesus, the treasure of Jesus, ... is the only way you can write the words “It is well with my soul””. What other hymns or songs do you know that have been written out of tragedy or that complement or reinforce Philippians 3:1-11? (See additional resource sheet)
6. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or inspiring in the sermon today, and what will you do differently as a result? What did the Holy Spirit impress upon you?

IN THE WORD: Read these passages in relation to this week’s sermon “Even If I lose Everything”.

- **Galatians 2:15-21:** Paul echoes the argument of abandoning reliance on the law for justification, stating "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me".
- **Romans 3:21-31:** Discusses the righteousness of God being revealed apart from the law, through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **2 Corinthians 5:17-21:** Highlights being "in Christ" and becoming the righteousness of God, which matches the desire in Philippians 3:9 to be found in Him.
- **Galatians 6:14:** Paul declares he will boast only in the cross of Christ, echoing his sentiment of counting everything as "garbage" compared to knowing Christ.
- **Romans 7:5-6:** Explains the failure of the "flesh" to produce righteousness.
- **Matthew 13:44-46 (The Pearl of Great Price):** A parable illustrating that finding the kingdom of God (knowing Christ) is worth selling everything else.

PRACTICE:

1. What is one thing you are holding onto that you need to count as "loss" to know Christ more deeply?
2. How can you actively "rejoice in the Lord" this week rather than in your accomplishments?
3. If you knew that your gain in Christ was guaranteed to be better than any earthly loss, what fear would disappear?