

Losing in Order to Win

Phil. 3:1-11

Introduction:

- A. Sometimes we have to lose in order to win, to gain, to find.
 - 1. Paul's experience (text).
 - 2. Paul's experience imitated Jesus (2:5-10)
 - 3. Jesus' words (Matt. 10:38, 39; Luke 14:33).
- B. When we come to Christ we must be willing to lose everything:

Discussion:

I. Positions.

- A. Paul's position of power and prestige as a Jew. (Phil. 3:4-6).
- B. All this was "rubbish" compared to what he gained (Phil. 3:8).
 - 1. To be found in Christ (3:9).
 - 2. To know Christ (3:9)
 - 3. To attain the resurrection of the righteous (3:10-11).
- C. Paul gave up all for His Lord, who had given up all for him (2:5-11).

II. Possessions.

- A. Rich young ruler (Matt. 19:22).
- B. Even the necessities of life (Matt. 6:33).
 - 1. Guaranteed only by "losing" them for Christ.
 - 2. If lose livelihood to obey Heb. 10:25 — another way will be provided.

III. Persons.

- A. Losing life for Christ involves personal relationships (Matt. 10:37-39).
- B. One gains more in Christ (Mark 10:29-30).

IV. Pleasures.

- A. Moses chose affliction over pleasures (Heb. 11:25).
- B. Pleasures of this life can choke out the word. (Lk. 8:14).
- C. Must not love pleasures more than God (2 Tim. 3:4)
- D. Christian finds pleasure in the Lord (Phil. 4:4).

Conclusion:

- A. Does this mean we can have no positions, possessions, personal relationships, or pleasures?
- B. We must come to Christ with this mind set:
 - 1. If any of the Lord needs anything we have he has it.
 - 2. If any of these things get in our way of serving Him, they are gone!
- C. No congregation can realize full potential until membership has this mind set.