

When Gain is Counted as Loss

September 9th & 10th, 2017

Philippians 3:7

In the American culture, “Gain” motivates most pursuits! Some examples include:

- ✓ Business: “Gain a profit”
- ✓ Sports: “Gain the advantage”
- ✓ Deals: “Gain the upper hand”
- ✓ Exercise: “Gain ground”
- ✓ Finances: “Gain security and independence”
- ✓ Education: “Gain a Degree”

Paul, however, realized that whatever gain he had acquired in his life was counted as loss! *To be industrious and work hard is a necessary virtue, but when does gain become loss?*

Jesus brought truth and clarity regarding life.

Matthew 16:26 “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”

- Mark 8:35-38
 - Jesus warns of putting our reputation and image before our testimony of His Deity and Words!
- Luke 14:25-33

❖ Whenever God calls His people, it always requires surrender!

Examples of God calling His people to surrender:

Abram: “Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.’” *Genesis 12:1*

Moses: “Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” *Exodus 3:10*

Elisha: “So [Elijah] departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah...” *1 Kings 19:19-20a*

Peter: “And Peter said, ‘See, we have left our homes and followed You.’” *Luke 18:28*

Jesus supplies all that we need for life and Godliness!

2 Peter 1:3-4 “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

- ❖ Paul wrote, “[We] glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.” *Philippians 3:3*

“In Christ” we have ...

... Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places!

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,”

... Redemption and Forgiveness of sin!

Ephesians 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace,"

Colossians 1:13 "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,"

... The Guarantee of our inheritance in heaven!

Ephesians 1:13-14 "In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory."

- Paul was convinced that, *"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* *Philippians 1:21*

... Life and Light!

John 1:4 "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."

John 8:12 "Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

... Unity and Stability!

Colossians 1:17 "And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

... The Presence of God's Holy Spirit and His guidance into all truth!

John 16:7-14

... Purpose in life!

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Psalms 138:8 "The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever..."

... A Vital Position in the Body of Christ!

Ephesians 2:22 "In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:7 "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

... Freedom from anxiety and the assurance of all of our needs being met!

Matthew 6:33-34 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Paul concluded that whatever gain he had acquired before Christ was nothing compared to all he now had in Christ! In fact, all of his past achievements were a stumbling block, hindering him from the truth concerning God's salvation through Jesus Christ!

"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ." *Philippians 3:7*

Endnotes:

- ◆ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.