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THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?



The Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ

Philippians 3:7-11

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

As Paul continues to warn against the false teachers (Judaizers) who were teaching Gentiles to obtain salvation through observance of Jewish law, he explains the gain of having a real relationship with the living Christ! All the efforts of the flesh and attempts to produce our own righteousness are of no value at all. Paul states that the greatest gain is the knowledge of Christ Himself Who gives us God's righteousness. This relationship by faith brings with it all we need for this life and the next!

Part 1 – Gain or Loss

Read Philippians 3:7-8; Matthew 13:44-46
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1) What choice did Paul make according to these verses?

2) How do Jesus' two parables in Matthew 13 illustrate Paul's choice?

3) Have you ever made this choice? Explain.

Part 2—Winning (Gaining) Christ

Read Philippians 3:8-9; 1 John 5:11-13

1) What is the benefit of winning/gaining Christ according to verse 9?

2) Why is Jesus the Son so important according to 1 John 5?

3) According to these verses how do you gain/have Christ in your life?

Part 3—The Whole Package

Read Philippians 3:10; 2 Peter 1:1-4

1) According to this verse what do we gain as a result of our knowledge of "him"?

2) Make a list of all that we gain through the knowledge of God and Jesus according to 2 Peter 1:

3) Do you feel that you are currently enjoying all the benefits of Christ? Explain.

Part 4—The Arrival

Read Philippians 3:11; John 6:37-40

1) What did Paul anticipate in this verse?

2) According to John 6 why can believers be confident they will arrive at the resurrection?

3) How does your relationship with God affect your view of death?