

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for July 20-21, 2002

Dale Whitehead

"Paul's Spiritual Accounting Practices"

Philippians 3:4-11

What were the specific things that Paul transferred from the profit column to the loss column in Philippians 3:4-6?

Paul being circumcised on the eighth day was transferred from the profit to the loss column.

Paul being born of the nation of Israel was transferred from the profit to the loss column.

Paul being of the tribe of Benjamin was transferred from the profit to the loss column.

Paul's faithful adherence to Jewish traditions was transferred from the profit to the loss column.

Paul's pharisaical adherence to the law was transferred from the profit to the loss column.

Paul's zeal in persecuting the church was transferred from the profit to the loss column.

Paul's flawless conformity to the Mosaic law in the eyes of men was transferred from the profit to the loss column.

What compelled Paul to regard as loss what he had considered as gain?

The phrase "for the sake of Christ" is equivalent with the phrase "that I may gain Christ."

Paul was compelled to regard as loss what he considered gain because he knew that he could not come to Christ and be saved unless he abandoned all confidence in other things.

How did Paul view his losses?

Paul considered the losses he suffered to be rubbish.

The word "rubbish" (SKUBALON) means "manure, filth" and most likely is a reference to human excrement.

Paul did not only consider his personal accomplishments as loss, he considered "all things as loss" in view of gaining Christ or salvation.

If any person is going to gain Christ it is not simply a matter of making Him our Savior by faith but also making Him our Lord by faith.

When did this dramatic change in how Paul viewed his losses take place?

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Paul's dramatic change took place while he was on his way to a place called Damascus (Acts 9:1-5).

If our spiritual books were audited by God the only gain that should hopefully appear on our ledger is Christ and everything else should appear as loss.