



“Dollar Store Dignity”

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-16

MAIN POINT: THE ONLY WAY TO TURN OUR GRIEFS TO JOYS IS TO TURN OUR TREASURES TO TRASH.

*Our dreams and aspirations must be centered around knowing God.
Knowing God is only possible by treasuring His Son, Jesus, above everything else.
Philippians 3:1-16 makes this point in four steps.*

1. We are WARNED about the dangers of putting confidence in ourselves. (1-3)

- The Philippians were being told to ground their hope in the Old Testament law.
- All of us have this tendency to place our hope in our personal accomplishments- we all craft a resume before God that we believe will give us.

2. We can WITNESS the impressive characteristics of Paul’s life before God. (4-6)

- Paul lists the impressive ways in which he could place confidence in himself.
- Paul’s participation in the “resume” game set the Philippians up for his next point.

*What fills up your resume before God? your potential? your past? your faithfulness?
When life begins to get you down and discouraged, what thoughts help “pick you up”?
In what ways do you encourage others to “bask in your glow”?*

3. We WORSHIP Christ only when we’re willing to discard our resumes. (7-11)

- Paul takes everything that seemed to have given him value, honor, and dignity... and he chucks it in the trash- calling it “skubala” (trash, rubbish, dung, scraps).
- In v 9 he identifies the reason (“a righteousness of my own... from the law”).
- We can’t become righteous before God on our own; that only happens by faith.
- Our faith must be in Christ for the righteousness that He imputes to our account.
- Knowing Christ in this way brings power to my life (10), interprets suffering (10), and can redeem and bring back life into my existence (11).

4. We WORK for Christ only by pressing on to what we have attained. (12-16)

- Paul tells us to press on towards this goal (knowing Christ), knowing that good is ahead of us... and the key is in believing that our righteousness is accomplished.

“I have taken all my good deeds, and all my bad, and cast them in a heap before the Lord, and fled from them both, and betaken myself to the Lord Jesus Christ; and in Him I have sweet peace.”

*What good deeds do you hold onto that make you think you don’t need Christ?
What bad deeds do you feel haunt you and make you unable to come to Christ?
What would it mean then to flee from them both and experience sweet peace in Christ?*