

# WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?

## Philippians 3:3-11

True believers, all of the true “*circumcision*,” have three common characteristics that prove their standing before God:

1. We worship in the Spirit of God.
2. We boast in Christ Jesus.
3. We have no confidence in the flesh.

## 2. TIME FOR HONEST SELF-ASSESSMENT v. 4

**GRACE VS. WORKS:** It is easy to place more emphasis on religious effort—works (*confidence in the flesh*)—than on internal faith, but God sees the attitude of our hearts.

- To prove his point, Paul challenged any false teachers to a fleshly credentials “**showdown.**”
- Paul lists seven qualifications of a full-blooded Jew.
- Four of these were from heredity or by birth, three were by choice or personal conviction. **BUT THEY WERE NOT SUFFICIENT TO GET HIM INTO HEAVEN!**

### 3. PAUL'S WORTHLESS CREDENTIALS v. 5-6

1. Circumcised on the eighth day.
2. Of the tribe of Benjamin.
3. Of the people of Israel. (NRSV)
4. A Hebrew born of Hebrews.
5. Concerning the law, a Pharisee.
6. As to zeal, a persecutor of the church.
7. As to righteousness under the law, blameless.

**Wow . . . nice résumé of accomplishments and heritage!**

## 4. THE BIG BUT v. 7

### SPIRITUAL ACCOUNTING: IT WAS ALL A BUNCH OF JUNK.

- Paul used an accounting metaphor with a gains and loss column. **“GAINS”** is plural, referring to individual items.
- **“LOSS”** is singular, indicating that all the **“GAINS”** are no longer worth being listed separately, but come under a single category: **“LOSS.”**
- Paul compared **ALL HIS DOCTORATES IN JUDAISM** to the joy of knowing Jesus as Lord, and then filled his garbage cans with his Jewish credentials.

## 5. REAL VALUE v. 8

When Paul said “*all things*,” he was referring to any type of credential or honor or acclaim that someone might try to use in order to gain favor with God.

- The Greek word for “*knowing*” here speaks of a personal, experiential, and progressive knowledge.
- When Paul considered everything he had accomplished in his life, he decided to write it off as “*a loss*” when compared with the greatness of knowing Christ.
- **REAL VALUE:** Only the one who willingly lets go of all things can truly gain Christ. **LUKE 9:23-24**

***KNOWING CHRIST IS WORTH THE SACRIFICE.***

## 6. WHERE ARE YOU AT? v. 9

Whether Christ returned or Paul died, Paul wanted to be “*found in*” Christ every moment—that is living in a vibrant, intimate, wonderful union with Christ—**LOST IN HIM!**

If you could, where would you choose to be

**“LOST FOR A DAY”?**

- A backpacker might be deep in the High Sierras.
- A baseball fan—Cooperstown, New York.

Being “*found in*” Jesus Christ is, paradoxically, like being lost in Him—**FULLY IMMERSSED IN THE EXPERIENCE OF JESUS.**

## 7. DEATH TO LIFE! v. 10-11

When we are united with Christ by trusting in Him, we experience the power that raised Him from the dead.

- But before we can walk in newness of life, we must also die to sin.
- We can't know the victory of the Resurrection without personally applying the Crucifixion. Death to the old ways—a life lived for Him will cost you everything!

**WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?**

**EVERYTHING IN THIS LIFE FOR HEAVEN IN THE NEXT!**