

Surrendering Your Past

Series: 40 Days of Purpose—Worship

Philippians 3:4b-11 (NIV)

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

1. WHEN WE DEPEND ON OURSELVES, WE LOSE OUR FOCUS ON WORSHIPPING GOD.

v. 4b "...If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:"

- When I depend on my abilities, that's all I get.
- When I surrender myself to God, I get what I bring to the table plus the creator of the universe.
- Worshipping God requires that the focus be on God not myself.

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

2. CONNECTING WITH GOD SURPASSES EVERYTHING WE CAN HAVE OR DO ON THIS EARTH.

v. 7 "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ."

Matthew 16:26 (NIV)

What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?

- What ever I must give up to put God first can never compare with what I gain.
- My connection with God causes all other relationships to pale in comparison.
- I must give up to go up.

3. MY WORSHIP HELPS ME BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST.

v. 10 "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death . . ."

- The better I know God, the easier it is to worship Him.

1 John 2:3 (NIV)

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.

- Connecting with God in worship has benefits and challenges:
 - I have the power of Christ's resurrection.
 - I will share in Christ's sufferings.
 - I will experience a death to self and my old way.

Psalms 34:8 (TEV)

Find out for yourself how good the Lord is.

Happy are those who find safety with him.