



## Profit or Loss?

### Scripture: Philippians 3:1-11

*Matthew 16:25 (NLT) - If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your life and lose it – vv. 1-6

A. \_\_\_\_\_ out! – vv. 1-3

B. \_\_\_\_\_ your resume – vv. 4-6

2. \_\_\_\_\_ your life and find it – vv. 7-11

A. \_\_\_\_\_ an inventory – v. 7

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Christ – vv. 8-11

### To Go

Take a piece of paper and write down several things that you might put on a spiritual resume (profits) and then tear it up and throw it away.

Tell God the one thing you would have the hardest time surrendering if He asked for it.

Pick a meal and fast this week, replacing your hunger for food with time in the presence of God, seeking to taste and see who Christ truly is.

### Quick Review

For every person who desires to follow Jesus, there is a strong pull to find our identity in the outworking of our faith. Good deeds often give evidence of spiritual vitality but they can also stand in the way of true spirituality. Apart from Jesus' righteousness, our fruitfulness will be found sour. Paul's encouragement to the young church in Philippians is to reject any confidence in their good works. Paul rejected these things as markers of spiritual fruit: born into a great Jewish family, circumcised on the 8th day, zealous against Jesus' followers, and faultless when compared to others. Faith in Jesus requires valuing His righteousness as more valuable than any perceived good we try to add. Trusting Jesus' righteousness as sufficient requires a willingness to lay aside all we think is valuable in light of the surpassing value of Jesus.

What things, if taken away this week, would cause you to question the goodness of God?

In light of Philippians 3:1-11, do you find the language of assets and liability helpful as you consider your spiritual health? Why or why not?

How is the message of Luke 9:23-26 consistent with Philippians 3:1-11? Why is it so difficult to deny self in order to follow Jesus?

Consider the list of spiritual qualities in 3:4-6. What are a few modern day markers of perceived spiritual success that may or may not be true spiritual fruit?

Taste and see that Jesus is beautiful. Reflect on His work done on your behalf. Reflect on His righteousness. Know that as your desires are aligned to His you can't help but be transformed into His likeness.

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