

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Philippians 3:4-8**.
- B. All compete to win the prize. Athletes and other contestants are all striving to win. We will do many things in training to get a chance at receiving the prize.
- C. In our competition and training some things will be attained other things given up.
- D. Paul discarded many things so that he might gain the supreme prize--JC.

## I. THINGS PAUL GAVE UP (TO GAIN X).

- A. As noted in the text, Paul gave up some very important things so that he might gain X. We too in one form or another will have to give up these things if we are to gain X as well.
- B. **First, Paul gave up the pride of ancestry.**  
Paul had much to gain in his own life by those who had gone on before him. Sometimes when we come from families who have been strong in the church we feel that we have much gain, and we do, but this does not give us salvation (Gal. 1:14; Phil. 2:5).  
(Gal 1:14) and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.  
(Phil 2:5) Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,...
- C. **Second, Paul gave up the pride of orthodoxy.**  
Paul had some of the finest educational training and teachers that could be obtained. Yet, he realized that, that alone did not give him salvation. Our knowledge may be great in Bible facts, but are we using them to gain X (Ac. 22:3; 26:5; see Phil. 2:5f).  
(Ac 22:3) "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, just as you all are today.  
(Ac 26:5) since they have known about me for a long time previously, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.
- D. **Third, the pride of activity.**  
Paul was busy in religious matters, and had great works; credentials of which to boast. But his life was not in keeping with the law of X, and he had to change. We can do many things, but we can never work ourselves into heaven. We can only go to heaven by way of X (Ac. 9:1-2; 22:3-5; Phil. 2:6; Gal. 1:13).  
(Ac 9:1-2) Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.  
(Ac 22:3-5) "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, just as you all are today. 4 "And I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, 5 as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.  
(Phil 2:6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,  
(Gal 1:13) For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure, and tried to destroy it;
- E. **Fourth, Paul gave up the pride of morality.**  
He was a good Pharisee, unlike those we read of in the gospels. He was blameless not allowing the Jewish traditions to nullify the Law of Moses. Yet, just because he was moral doesn't mean that he can go to heaven. Morality is not a substitute for spirituality (Ac. 23:1; Phil. 2:6f).  
(Ac 23:1) And Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day."  
(Phil 2:6) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

## II. OBSTACLES HE OVERCAME (TO GAIN CHRIST).

### A. **First, the risk of uncertainty.**

Many have a great fear of really trying to walk as Jesus did due to fear of what might be the outcome. We don't know what will happen if we forsake all to follow Him. (The other side of the coin is true too, if we do not forsake everything we do know what will happen to us and it is very bad).

### B. **Second, we have difficult choices.**

Do we choose to do the urgent or the important. Many will choose to satisfy the needs and desires that are urgent (but not always necessary) while the wise man will choose to fill the important needs first and then deal with everything else.

### C. **Third, we must have total loyalty to God.**

Paul counted that the things he gave up were now as rubbish or bird dung to him. This means that they had no pull or he had no desire for those things whatsoever. Many times we say we have given things up, but in reality still desire them. Total loyalty says all things are rubbish in order to gain Christ.

## III. THINGS PAUL GAINED IN CHRIST.

### A. **First, Paul gained companionship (Gal. 2:20).**

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”

### B. **Second, Paul gained a union with Christ (Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3-4).**

**(Gal 3:26-27)** For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

**(Rom 6:3-4)** Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

### C. **Third, Paul gained a likeness of X (Phil. 1:21; 1Cor. 11:1).**

**(Phil 1:21)** For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

**(1Cor 11:1)** Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

## CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. Colossians 3:4 makes the statement that “Christ, who is our life” and this should be characteristic of the child of God. Our life is not bound up in politics, sports, hobbies, homes, and cars. But it is the person and doctrine of X that is our life.

B. Each person needs to give up:

1. The pride of ancestry.
2. The pride of orthodoxy.
3. The pride of activity.
4. The pride of morality.

C. Give all this up and you will gain the supreme prize--JC.

D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.