

Letting Go and Moving On

Introduction

There are times when it is not good to let go!

Philippians 3:4-16

1. In these verses, Paul gives us an idea of what really matters in life.
2. There are things he learned he needed to let go, and understood what he needed to do to "move on."
3. May we have the understanding in our life to do the same.

His Loss and Gain (3:7-11)

v7 "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ."

1. The terms "were gain" and "counted loss" introduces the thought of weighing one thing over against another to determine the true value of the things compared.
 - A. Before Paul came to Christ he valued the kind of things he named in verses 5-6 as being profitable and advantageous to him.
 - 1) But there would come a time when he would see these things in an entirely different light.
 - a. When? At his conversion.
 - 2) He had come to consider them as "loss for Christ" They had no value to him to bring him to Christ!

B. What things in life do we value that may take up so much of our time that we do not take the time to learn of Christ?

v8 "Yet indeed I also count **all** things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord"

2. Paul moves from the past to the present.

A. Not only the things he meant in verse 7, but by adding the word ALL to this context, he broadens his statement to embrace any and everything that stood between him and Christ.

B. He now had an entirely new outlook on things. He emphasizes that the knowledge of Christ, a knowledge so valuable, that it more than compensated for the loss of everything else.

1) "Knowledge" was to KNOW Christ (trusting, loving, obeying, relying on, serving Him – what JOY!)

v10 "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection"

3. To "know" Christ is much deeper than having an intellectual understanding of Him. It is to be fully incorporated in Him.

A. To think as He would think, to love as He would love, to serve as He would serve.

1) It means: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

4. **It is also to know the power of His resurrection.**
 - A. **The power that raised up Jesus Christ from the dead. It is the power that is exemplified in the life of the Christian by his faith.**
 - 1) **In one's baptism into Christ the Christian becomes united with Christ in His death and resurrection. The end of an old life, the beginning of a new!**
Romans 6:3-7

Pressing Toward the Mark (3:12-14)

v12 "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."

1. **As long as there was life left for Paul in his fleshly body, there was room for progress. He could still come to know Christ better.**
 - A. **The prize is available at the end of the race. It requires effort and therefore he knew that he must complete the race to claim the prize.**
 - B. **"Or am already perfected." Paul never claimed to have reached such a state, or infers that such a state is ever reached on earth.**
2. **"I press on" Paul knew that he had to continue to push forward in life so that he would be able to lay hold of the prize.**

v13 "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead"

3. **Paul understood that constant effort is required to obtain the prize. His whole life was given to one purpose.**
 - A. **He forgot about those things which he once thought of as gain (verse 7), and even the hardships and sufferings he endured along the way.**
 - 1) **He was eager to receive that which was before him.**
 - **Forgetting the past!**

v14 "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus"

4. **His eyes are fixed on the goal of heaven, the eternal crown and presses through every difficulty to reach it.**
 - 1) **At the conclusion of his life Paul said:**
2 Timothy 4:7-8

Encouragement to the Mature (3:15-16)

v16 "Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind."

1. **Paul encourages all who are mature, that is well developed, to have the mind or spirit that is indicated in verses 7-14.**
2. **"To the degree that we have already attained" Those who have not reached the status that Paul described, may they make the right use of all the light, ability, and knowledge they have obtained in order to walk by the same rule and to be of the same mind.**

Conclusion

- 1. Brethren and friends, may we all let go of our past**
 - A. Those things that we hold dear to us, that may be keeping us from knowing and abiding in Christ Jesus.**
- 2. Let us reach forward to those things which are ahead. May we keep focused on Jesus and strive to receive the crown of life.**
- 3. May we all be an encouragement to one another so that we can one day enjoy the pleasures of eternity with Jesus!**

