

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Loss

"Whatever you lose, reckon of no account." – Publilius Syrus, *Moral Sayings*

"In life it is more necessary to lose than to gain. A seed will only germinate if it dies." – Boris Pasternak"

"It is better to lose the saddle than the horse." – Italian Proverb

"It is not what you have lost, but what you have left that counts." – Harold Russell

"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ" (Phil. 3:7). It was George Helbert who said it well, "Sometimes the best gain is to lose."

When one considers what Paul gave up to follow the Lord, it is truly amazing. He himself had wrote, "If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; concerning the law a Pharisee" (Phil. 3:4-5). He said, "I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our father's law, and was zealous toward God as you are all today" (Acts 22:3).

A Pharisee, taught by Gamaliel, of the tribe of Benjamin, which the Jews regarded as the best, such a background would have been the envy of many Jews. Yet, Paul did not see it as a gain because it interfered with his efforts to follow Christ. Such was from the past, and it needed to be left there.

Sadly today there are Christians who have baggage that they just can't leave behind. They want to follow Christ, but they don't want to let go of their past. Is there really anything that is worth jeopardizing our walk with Christ?

Since we are focused for the moment on Paul, let's not forget his resolve to follow Christ. "I have been crucified with Christ; 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 gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

"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. 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, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12-14).