

## **November 2020**

*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him... Philippians 3:7-9*

The apostle Paul confesses that absolutely nothing is even close to comparing to the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus. And what he speaks of here is not just a knowing like you know some facts of history or your mathematical times tables. Paul speaks of an all encompassing worth of knowing who Christ is for him - which is why he calls Jesus *my Lord* - and how he can say that he desires to be found *in Christ*. Our Lord incorporates us into Himself as Paul confesses elsewhere saying we have been baptized *into Christ* (Romans 6:3). This is worth more than anything else, the apostle says, because it delivers all of the riches of heaven which are found in Christ and nothing can really compare with that. Everything thing else is like rubbish when put next to what our Lord has done and continues to do for us because it is the highest and best thing. Ever.

Here, Paul lovingly reminds the Philippians and all Christians of the surpassing worth of what they have as ones incorporated into Jesus who was crucified and raised from the dead for them: forgiveness of sins and our own resurrection from the dead. What could be better than that? What could be better than to bask in our Lord's love for you in a world that is often so unloving? What could better than to be embraced by the One through whom all things are made?

We say, "Nothing is better than that." And yet we struggle to count other things not as important. We want to count everything else as rubbish as compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ, but are lured constantly in so many directions. We know this because we can check our schedules and see where reading the Bible and prayer fit in. It is revealed when we reflect on how we receive Sunday morning when it rolls around and Christ stands ready at His altar to deliver to you life and salvation. What about the Midweek Services when they are offered for more abiding in the true Word of God and prayer?

Knowing Christ our Lord and being found in Him is a surpassing worth which Paul reminds us of in order to call us back and invite us into the rejoicing Christ has in store for us. Yes, it is a battle because so many things call for our attention which is why Paul then says he *strains forward to what lies ahead* and that he *presses on toward the goal of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 3:13-14). Faith is active in seeking the good gifts of God in Christ Jesus. Faith needs to be exercised in order to be strengthened in the battle.

As Paul, by faith, puts the Word of God and His gifts in the forefront to keep from looking back to all the other things that called for his admiration, he displays the life of the Christian which sees the surpassing worth of knowing and being found in Christ. It is the highest and best thing to know that Jesus was actually treated as rubbish on the cross for you and that you are of surpassing worth to Him.

So this Thanksgiving go ahead and give thanks for your earthly blessings. That's good to do. But of all things, give thanks that beyond that and even better than all of them, you have a Savior who comes to you and blesses you with an unfailing, cruciform love.

That's worth knowing.

In Christ,  
Pastor Suggitt

## LIFE QUOTES

“The Church has confessed from the beginning that each life is created by God, that human life is the supreme gift of the Creator. Human life is not given unconditionally but is given under the condition that we will be responsible for preserving it. The testimony that God respects life above all else is contained in the words of the Gospel: ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life’ (John 3:16).” *Abbot Tryphon, Vashon Island, Washington – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

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