



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries
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The Cost of Knowing Christ

There is a big difference between knowing Christ and knowing about Christ.

Phil 3:7 *_But_ whatever [things] were gains to me, these I have considered loss for the sake of Christ.*

Phil 3:8 *_But_ indeed, therefore, I also consider all [things] to be loss for the sake of the surpassing excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for the sake of whom I suffered loss of all [things], and I consider them to be garbage, so that I shall gain Christ*

The words “gains” (kardos) meaning a profit, “those things” refers to his human celebrityship or gains in the world but worthless in the spiritual realm. The phrase “I have counted” (hegemai) which literally means “I keep counting as loss”, expresses two principles:

- We have to keep on having to learn any particular doctrine
- We keep on having to apply any particular principle

There is no graduation in learning BD. We keep on mastering any particular doctrine. Learning is just a matter of possibility but application is reality. From the sphere of possibility we have to set it down firmly in reality.

In this life, everything except Christ and BD are considered non-essential and merely a possibility. Only Christ and the Word of God are reality and essential to life.

Two steps to move from possibility to reality:

- First step: The believer has to establish in his soul that everything except the Lord Jesus Christ and BD are essential, everything else are non-essential and not worth mentioning.
- Second step: The believer has to do the necessary action to let go of the non-essentials and other negligible things.

The positive volition believer through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit will help the believer to let go of anything that:

- Gives you false sense of security
- Gives you reasons for boasting in the thing of the world
- Gives you excuses for not following Christ
- Gives you false power and confidence in the world

God forces no one to excel. God wanted you to receive the highest and best in order to excel in the world but He will never compel or oblige you. You have to see what God has prepared for you and trust His love with your own free will.

The exchange of your life for His life, your will for His will, your plan for his plan is costly.

The “surpassing value” means greatness, more excellent than everything you have right now.

Knowledge in this context refers to metabolized Bible doctrine in the soul plus the experiential application of doctrine into life’s situation. The words “*to me*” points to the cause of all the problems in life, the one who does things for himself, while “*for whom*” points to the only solution, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Life in this planet is either self-centered or Christ-centered; it’s either occupied with self or occupied with Christ.

Occupation with self focuses on:

- What I want
- What I desire
- What I need

Occupation with Christ focuses on

- Attitude
- Priority
- Decision

Occupation with Christ is the reality that: “you have all of Christ and He has all of you”.

“I have suffered the loss of all things” literally means “I have been caused to forfeit all things for eternity with Christ”. Paul lost seven points of human celebrityship.

The title Paul of Tarsus points to Saulos Paulos Benjamitis family’s great wealth and reputation where only the prominent and extremely rich families were allowed to retain their Tarsian citizenship after the Romans conquered their nation.

Paul was disowned by his parents, relatives, and family as devout Hebrews, a Pharisee of the highest rank who became one of the hated Christian of all time.

The word “rubbish” (skubala) means piles of dung. Paul was saying: I keep on counting and considering that all these human viewpoint status symbols are nothing but files of excrement in the light of eternal values.

For every human viewpoint status symbol or human celebrityship there is corresponding decision you have to make. Gaining Christ is synonymous to execution of the PPOG in three stages:

- Salvation (v.9)

- Spiritual advancement (v.10)
- Resurrection (v.11)

Paul died with inner happiness on spring of 68 AD at Ostian Way outside of Rome. The happiness from God in the soul of Paul was developed through daily application of Bible doctrine in his life. He learned to rejoice in every circumstance since his happiness was not based on people, events, and things but from his MBD. He rejoiced in his:

- Conflict of Christ against the cosmic system
- Daily battle with Satan while executing the PPOG
- Many afflictions and sufferings
- Imprisonment and unjust treatment
- Scars and stigmata
- Both in prosperity and poverty
- Both in peace time and adverse circumstances

“In order that I may gain” (hina kerdaino) refers to the acquisition of possessions with the highest values. Note that it is something we could receive or something we could reject.

Everyday we face the option to choose between the cosmic system and the plan of God. Every decision we make determine whether we are going to receive the “much more” blessings or curse from God.

6 basic applications from this lesson:

- Sooner or later in your spiritual growth, all the non-essential and temporal must be subordinated to the spiritual.
- Whatever things of the world that you put into consideration above Christ and Bible doctrine will be to your loss and disadvantage.
- Whatever distraction or things that you hold long enough to hinder your advancement will become a curse to you.
- Every step of advance of faith in the PPOG requires a little loss of self in order to gain a little more of Christ.
- Every little loss of self is painful because self dies hard.
- The believer who loses all that he has in the world, gains Christ.

Galatians 6:14 But for me, *[I will]* absolutely not boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by means of whom to me *[the]* world has been crucified and I to the world.

Galatians 5:24 Now the *[ones who are]* Christ's *[have]* crucified the flesh with its passions and its desires *[or, lusts]*.

Galatians 5:25 Since we are living in *[or, by]* the Spirit, let us also be keeping in line with *[fig., be living in conformity with]* the Spirit.

Every believer has overcome the flesh eternally (positionally in Grace) and has to overcome every adversity experientially including everything that opposed God and Bible doctrine. The believer must crucify to self the following:

- Unwarranted desires of OSN

- Arrogance scheme of the self-centered life
- Self-directed life
- Self-accomplished life with its agony and victory