



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Thursday, June 3, 2021

Scripture: Philippians 3:5-7

TITLE: Double Check the Account

In the musical, *Les Miserables*, Jean Valjean is ever being hunted by the pious Javert. Javert is a police officer, who is proud of his experience, his background, and his pious living. But his piety would lead to his destruction. When faced with the grace and mercy from Valjean, it flew in the face of his legalism. Thankfully, that’s not Paul’s story.

Listen to what Paul came from as we continue our study of the book of Philippians. Philippians 3:5-7 (ESV) says, “circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

Paul has been talking about the danger of legalism. It’s just the game of religion with a little Jesus on top. But once you add or take anything away from the Gospel, it’s no gospel.

In verse 4, Paul said, “If anyone could’ve been saved by their resumé, it was me.” And then in verse 5, he gives that resumé. He was a Hebrew of Hebrews. He was the pinnacle of Judaism. He was a faithful follower and doer of the Law. He had the right last name. And this passion for Judaism made him a persecutor of the Church. If there was a threat from Christianity, Paul would get rid of it. He got A’s in Hebrew school and a perfect performance review.

So he played the game of religion, but here’s the problem. He was still a sinner who needed a Savior. That’s why Paul says, “*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*” It’s like before his eyes, he looked at his checking account ledger. It is all in the black—credit after credit; deposit after deposit; but in the blink of an eye, he realized he was in the red. Every supposed deposit really was a withdrawal. He was infinitely in the red, and his only hope of coming back was through Christ.

And here’s the reality, only Christ can give us eyes to see our true ledger. The world will tell you, “It’s fine. There’s plenty of money in the account. Keep playing the games. You’ll be fine.” And then, like Paul, you meet Christ, and He says, “You’re actually flat broke, but I can write you a check to cover it all. Will you follow Me?” Quite the wake-up call for Paul. Now it’s our turn.

So here’s my challenge for you today: Look at your resumé and ask yourself, “How am I relying on my past accomplishments as security for my Salvation? What am I doing now to be an insurance policy for my future in Heaven?”

Don't tell me you don't have them. Even I sneak in a good work or two to make me feel better. But like Paul, we need to say, "It's all about Christ." Find your works-based insurance policy, cancel it, and thank God for His sufficient grace. God's grace is sufficient, and that changes everything.