



Philippians 3.7-9 “The Biggest Loser”

Paul first lists what things were gain to him:

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

THEN Paul acknowledges the surpassing gain he found in Christ:

7 But whatever things were gain to me,

these things I have considered **loss** because of Christ.

8 More than that, I even consider **all things to be loss** because of the surpassing greatness of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for the sake of whom I have suffered the **loss of all things,** and consider them (human) **dung**, in order that:

I may gain Christ

AND be found in HIM!

“LOSS” – 3X in verses 7-8

- **I don't gain Christ by my fleshly works – I LOSE Christ by them!**
- **I don't become more appealing to Christ by my religious works – I only become more appealing to myself – my pride!**

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and **the pride of life**—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Romans 3:20

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

How much “LOSS” have we modern Christians experienced?

- **Paul gladly lost everything**

Philippians 3:5–6

5 circumcised the eighth day,
of the stock of Israel,

of the tribe of Benjamin,

a Hebrew of the Hebrews;

concerning the law, a Pharisee;

6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church;

concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

- **57.69 ζημιόμαια; ζημία, ας f: to suffer the loss of something which one has previously possessed, with the implication that the loss involves considerable hardship or suffering—‘to suffer loss, to forfeit.’**

- **ζημιόμαια: δὶ ὄν τὰ πάντα ἐζημιώθην** ‘for the sake of whom I have suffered the loss of all things’ Php 3:8;
ἐὰν τὸν κόσμον ὅλον κερδήσῃ τὴν δὲ ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ ζημιωθῆ ‘if he gains the whole world and loses his life’ Mt 16:26. ¹

Jesus spoke to His disciples about this very issue:

Matthew 16:24–26

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples,
“If anyone desires to come after Me,

let him deny himself,

and take up his cross,

and follow Me.

25 For whoever desires to save his life
will lose it,

but whoever loses his life for My sake
will find it.

26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world,
and loses his own soul?

Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

Paul’s GREATEST GAIN:

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 565.

9 and may be found in him,
not having my own righteousness – which is from the law,
but (an eternal righteousness) which is through faith in Christ,
the righteousness from God on the basis of faith, 2

- **J. Vernon McGee:** “This is the verse that came to John Bunyan as he walked through the cornfields one night, wondering how he could stand before God. He said that suddenly he saw himself—**not just as a sinner, but as sin from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet.** He realized that he had nothing, and that Christ had everything.”³
- **Spurgeon** - **Oh, what a precious place to be found in, “in Him,”** trusting in Him, hidden away in Him, a member of His body, as it were, losing myself in Him!
To gain Christ means to be completely united with Him. In Him (in Christ), as noted above, points to the closest possible union between Christ and the believer. This truth is beautifully expressed in the Paul's declaration "to me, to live is Christ" which means that Paul derives all meaning for his life in Christ . In Colossians he declares "Christ (is) our life". The same truth is expressed in his proclamation that:
Galatians 2:20 "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"
- **You have to consider your religion, your self-righteousness, your trophies and resume' as worthless as “Human Dung”!**
 - **God certainly does!**

Rubbish/Dung

- **σκύβαλον, ου, τό** **useless or undesirable material that is subject to disposal, refuse, garbage** (in var. senses, **excrement, manure, garbage, kitchen scraps**): Plut. et al.; PSI 184, 7; PRyl 149, 22; PFay 119, 7; Sir 27:4; Philo, Sacr. Abel. 109; 139; Jos., Bell. 5, 571; SibOr 7, 58.—τὰ σκύβαλα **specif. of human excrement**: Artem. 1, 67 p. 61, 23; 2, 14 p. 108, 21; Jos., Bell. 5, 571 [cp. Epict., Fgm. Stob. 19 ἀποσκυβαλίζω].—MDibelius, Hdb. on

² W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), Php 3:7–9.

³ J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary*, electronic ed., vol. 5 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 314.

Phil 3:8) πάντα ἡγεῖσθαι σκύβαλα *consider everything garbage/crud* **Phil 3:8** (cp. AcPl Ha 2, 23; Spicq. s.v. “to convey the crudity of the Greek ... : ‘It’s all crap’.”).—DELG. TW. ⁴

What have you gained with Christ Jesus?

Ephesians 1:15–21 (LEB)

15 Because of this I also, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

16 do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention in my prayers,

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him

18 (the eyes of your hearts having been enlightened), so that you may know what is the hope of his calling,

what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance among the saints,

19 and what is

the surpassing greatness of his power toward us who believe,

according to the working of his mighty strength

20 which he has worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

21 above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name named, not only in this age but also in the coming one,

- **F.B. Meyer:** *“However zealous they may be in going about to establish their own righteousness, **men discover that what has seemed a white and flawless robe is only as filthy rags, in the searching light of the great white throne.**”*

⁴ William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 932.

Malachi 2:1-9

1 “And so then, O priests, this command is for you:

2 If you will not listen, and if you will not take it to heart to give glory to my name,” says Yahweh of hosts, “then I will send the curse on you, and I will curse your blessings; moreover I have already cursed them because you are not taking it to heart.

3 Look! I am going to rebuke your offspring, and I will scatter **offal** on your faces, the **offal** of your religious feasts, and you will be carried to it.

- **6569 פֶּרֶשׁ** [*peresh /peh·resh/*] n m. From 6567; TWOT 1835a; GK 7302; Seven occurrences; AV translates as “dung” seven times.

1 fecal matter, dung, offal. ⁵

- **Spread waste on your face** – because you preferred the law over relationship!

4 “Then you will know that I have sent to you this command, that my covenant with Levi continues,” says Yahweh of hosts.

5 “**My covenant with him was one of life and peace,** and I gave them to him. This required reverence, and he revered me and stood in awe before my name.

6 The instruction of truth was in his mouth, and wickedness was not found on his lips. In peace and in uprightness he walked with me, and he brought back many from sin.

7 For the lips of the priest should guard knowledge, and they should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of Yahweh of hosts.

8 But you, you have turned from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; **you have ruined the covenant of Levi,**” says Yahweh of hosts.

9 “And in turn I have made you despised and humbled before all the people, **inasmuch as you are not keeping my way, but have shown partiality to the Law”**

⁵ James Strong, *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon* (Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1995).