

# THINGS PAUL WANTED MOST

**(Philippians 3:7-4:1)**





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## (Philippians 3:7-4:1) **THE CONTEXT**



- **Warning of false teachers: (vs. 2)**  
“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation”
- **Speaks of what he willingly gave up: (vss 3-6)**
  - ▶ His rich religious heritage.
  - ▶ His illustrious ancestry.
  - ▶ His religious party.
  - ▶ His devoted zeal.
  - ▶ His faithfulness to the Law of Moses.

# Philippians 3:7–4:1 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.



# Philippians 3:7–4:1 (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. <sup>16</sup>

Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

# Philippians 3:7–4:1 (NKJV)

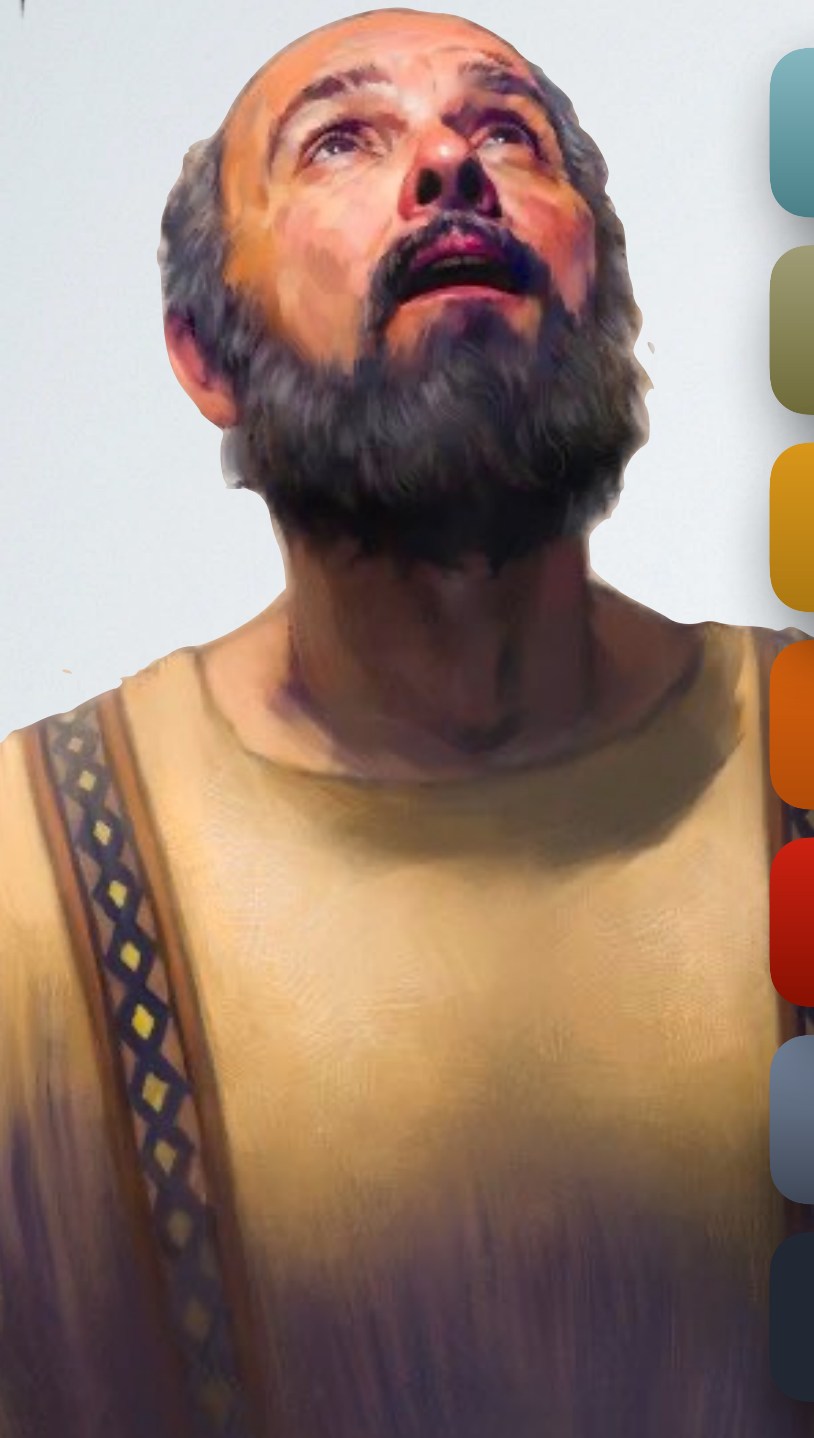
<sup>17</sup> Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. <sup>18</sup> For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: <sup>19</sup> whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.



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## GAVE UP EVERYTHING TO GAIN ...



**“knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord” (8)**

**“that I may gain Christ” (8)**

**“righteousness from God by faith” (9)**

**“that I may know Him ...” (10)**

**“... the power of His resurrection” (10)**

**“... fellowship of His sufferings” (10)**

**“the resurrection from the dead” (11,21)**

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## “THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (8-11)



- **“knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord” (8)**  
Paul could not maintain confidence in the flesh and have this surpassing knowledge in Christ at the same time.
- Paul considered the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus far superior to all he had and could have in Judaism.
- Paul emphasizes that this knowledge of Christ is “the only knowledge worth having, a knowledge so transcendent in value that it compensates for the loss of everything else.” [F.F. Bruce]



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## “THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (8-11)



- **“To gain Christ” (8)** — [to win Christ as his prize / receive blessing]
- **“To be found in Christ” (9)** - [The sphere of every spiritual blessing] (Gal 3:26,27; Jn 15:1-10; Eph 1:3ff)
- **“To be righteous through faith in Christ” (9)** - [right standing before God cannot be merited, but received] (Rom 3:21-4:8; 6:16-19; Acts 2:38; 22:16)



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## “THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (8-11)



- **“To know Christ” (10)** - [not merely to know about Him, but to know Him] — (1 Jno. 2:4-6; 2 Pet. 3:18)
- **“To know the power of His resurrection” (10)** - [empowerment] (Rom 6:4; Col. 3:1,2; Eph 1:18-20)
- **“To know the fellowship of Christ’s sufferings - being conformed to His death” (10)** - [living for Christ / dying to self] (1:29; Luke 9:23; Rom 6; 2 Cor. 4:10,11; Gal 2:20,21; Col. 3:3)



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## “THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (8-11)



■ **“I may attain to the resurrection from the dead” (11)** — Resurrection to a heavenly life is worth attaining by every sacrifice, and by every possible means (vs. 20,21; Acts 26:6-8).

Acts 26:6–8 (NASB95)

<sup>6</sup> “And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; <sup>7</sup> *the promise* to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve *God* night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews. <sup>8</sup> “Why is it considered incredible among you *people* if God does raise the dead?”



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**“THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (8-11)**



“Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?” Acts 26:8



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- **“I may attain to the resurrection from the dead” (11)** — Resurrection to a heavenly life is worth attaining by every sacrifice, and by every possible means (vs. 20,21; Acts 26:6-8).
- **JESUS’ BODILY resurrection** serves as the guarantee of our bodily resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20-23; Luke 14:14; 20:35,36; John 5:28,29; 11:24; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; 2 Cor. 4:14; 5:1-5; Rom. 8:11,23-25)



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## **“THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (12-21)**



- But I press on (12)
- Forgetting those things which are behind (13)
- Reaching forward (13)
- I press toward the goal for the prize (14)
- Walk by same rule (16)
- Be of the same mind (16)



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## “THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (12-21)



### ■ Our Citizenship in Heaven (17-21)

- ▶ Follow Paul and the other apostles (17)
- ▶ Many will not follow the rule and be destroyed - their loyalty is to this world (18,19)
- ▶ The day is coming when Jesus will return from heaven and receive the faithful to Himself (20-21; 1 Thes 4:13-16)



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**“THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (12-21)**



**Philippians 4:1  
(NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, my  
beloved and  
longed-for brethren,  
my joy and crown,  
so stand fast in the  
Lord, beloved.



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- **Gave up anything that would hinder ...** 4-7
- **To Give his all** to faithfully serve Christ ... 7-11
- **To Be focussed** on the task of progression ... 12-14
- **To Be diligent**, giving continues effort ... 14
- **For them**, (us) to be likeminded ... 15,16

Philippians 3:8–11 (NKJV)  
8 ... I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ...<sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ...<sup>20</sup> eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body,



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## “THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (12-21)



- It is obvious what was important to Paul: Jesus - all He is & has.
- With regard to profit and loss, we, as the apostle Paul, should view everything as loss except the Lord.
- Our only gain (profit) is in knowing the Lord, being in the Lord, living for the Lord & living with the Lord!



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## “THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (12-21)



- If, after searching your heart, you find anything standing between you and the Lord, as Paul did, “count it but rubbish” so you might gain Christ.
- Surrender your life to Him today!



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<sup>7</sup> But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

**“THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (12-21)**



- What is worth more to you than Christ and eternal life which is found in Him?
- What will you give in exchange for your soul? (Mat. 16:24-27)



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## “THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST” (12-21)



- Are you truly giving all that you may gain Christ and the true joy found in Him?
- ▶ Obey the gospel — Heb 5:8,9; Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38
- ▶ Grow in faith, diligently serving the Lord — 2 Pet 1:5-10
- ▶ Eternal joy awaits — (Rom 8:18; 1 Cor 15:58)







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**Charts by Don McClain**

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West 65th Street church of Christ / P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062

Email – [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

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# Matthew 13:44–50 (NKJV)

<sup>44</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.



# Matthew 13:44–50 (NKJV)

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, <sup>48</sup> which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.



Matthew 13:44–50 (NKJV)

49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”