

# Sunday, May 7, 2023

*1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."*

**Title:** That I May Gain Christ

**Series:** People of the Way ... 4

**Text:** John 14:1 to 7; Philippians 3:1 to 21

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to engage in a self-examination of their values and ask *"What am I willing to surrender in order to gain more of Christ Jesus?"*

Last Sunday the devotional was from Hebrews 12:1 - 8 and was entitled "Keeping Our Focus on the Way":

- ~ 1. Focus Point Number One is the Race
- ~ 2. Focus Point Number Two is the Lord Jesus Christ
- ~ 3. Focus Point Number Three is Shed Off Sin
- ~ 4. Focus Point Number four is Expect Discipline

## 1. To Gain Christ I Need to 'Count':

- ~ Philippians 3:1 – 11; take special notice of vs. 7 – 8, *"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. (8) 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."*
- ~ vs. 8 Paul says, *"and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ."*

The word "rubbish" is only found this one time in the New Testament! It has an unpleasant meaning, any refuse, as the excrement of animals, offscourings, rubbish, dregs; of things worthless and detestable.

- ~ consider what Paul is calling "rubbish:" – vs. 5, circumcised (covenant), of Israel, tribe of Benjamin, Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee; vs. 6, zeal – a persecutor of the church, righteousness under the law – blameless.
- ~ To the Jewish mind these were worthy credentials! Paul said in vs. 7, *"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ."*
- ~ Paul declared in 1 Timothy 1:15, *"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."*
- ~ What things in my life do I value that hold me back from gaining more of Christ Jesus?

Luke 18:9 – 14

## 2. To Gain Christ I Need to 'Press':

- ~ Philippians 3:12 – 16; notice vs. 12 and 14, *"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

~ In both vs. 12 and 14 the original word for "press" is the same; it is used some 45 times: 28 times as persecute, 6 times as follow after, 4 times follow, 3 times suffer persecution 3 times sundry

~ There is a cost to following Christ Jesus with a full commitment. Some will disapprove of our faith stand. Some will suggest that we are going to an unnecessary extreme.

~ Luke 14:25 – 35 This is incredibly tough!!!  
Do I value personal relationships ahead of Christ Jesus?  
Do I own things or do they own me? I am to be a steward for Christ Jesus.

~ It is important to have a spotter or spotters in our life.

Picture

## 3. To Gain Christ I Need to 'Look':

- ~ Philippians 3:17 – 21, special attention to vs. 17, *"Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us."*
- ~ 1 Corinthians 4:16, *"I urge you, then, to be imitators of me."*
- ~ 1 Corinthians 11:1, *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."*
- ~ Hebrews 6:12, *"so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."*

## 4. To Gain the 'Goal':

- ~ In ancient Greece you had to be a citizen of Greece to compete in the Olympic games; you did not compete to become a citizen.
- ~ Paul is doing a Counting, and Pressing, and Looking to the goal NOT to become a Believer, but because he IS a Believer.
- ~ Philippians 3:20 & 21, *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."*

The goal is to experience the resurrection power of Christ in our everyday lives – Philippians 3:10– 15

## Conclusion:

Communion

Hymn, More About Jesus Would I Know