

(Philippians 3:7-11, NIV84)

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

In the riots of recent days we have seen devastation and destruction. We have heard business owners tell the sad tales of how their businesses and livelihoods have been damaged, or completely obliterated. It is heartbreaking to see what once were beautifully stocked, well-run enterprises, now in shambles--buildings and businesses reduced to rubble. The acts of uncaring, lawless individuals have brought about this loss and injustice.

Saul, a Jewish Pharisee, had accomplished much and built the kind of life that would have been the envy of his contemporaries. But in an instant, all that Saul had achieved, all his hopes and ambitions were swept away. It happened on a road that led to Damascus. It wasn't at the hands of rioters or thugs that Saul's life was turned upside down. Rather, it was the Lord Jesus who appeared to Saul on that road and changed his life. Even though for a few days, Saul sat in the ashes of his former life, stunned and confused, the Lord Jesus had a better life in store for Saul -- infinitely better.

In recent days and months our lives may have drastically changed from what we have formerly known. In a sense we may feel as though our lives have been devastated. Rest assured, they have not. While it may be that things have changed, and circumstances have changed, our God has not changed; the life -- the eternal life -- that Jesus has given us has not changed.

If, in God's wisdom, all that we have treasured in this world is removed in an instant, know that God is simply making room in our lives for something infinitely better. Jesus says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21)

Rich beyond measure with you in Christ,

Pastor Golm  
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June 5

Knowing God

This is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

One of the most priceless privileges of the Christian is to know God. To know him (as he has revealed himself through Jesus Christ, his Son) is to have new life—a life of victory over sin and sorrow here on earth, and a life of eternal joy in the Father's house above.

But to know God means more than merely to know about him. Many know what the Bible has to say about the mighty Maker and Ruler of our universe. They may know, for instance, that he is a Spirit, that he is omnipotent, omnipresent, holy, just, and righteous.

But a person can know all this, and much more, and still not know God! That kind of knowledge is not life; it is still death. The words of Jesus quoted above might be expanded to read: "This is life eternal, that they might in their hearts know me as the Savior and thus experience Thee, that they might have fellowship with Thee, that they might have Thee as their personal, loving Father, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

By faith in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we Christians have come to know God personally. We have entered into intimate fellowship with him. We have walked with him and have talked with him. Or, as the patriarch Job once put it: "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth thee." He knew God as his kind and loving Father. Thank God that through Christ, we have learned to know him thus. In that knowledge we have life—both now and forever!

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One  
Shall glory, praise, and honor be Now and throughout eternity!

O blessed Holy Trinity, I thank You for having revealed Yourself to me—for letting me know the loving God You are!

(Devotion from: Daily Walk With God - Meditations for Every Day, by Herman W. Gockel)