**Losing in Order to Win**

**Phil. 3:7**

**Introduction:**

I. Sometimes we have to lose in order to win, to gain, to find.

A. Paul’s experience (Text – Phil. 3:1-11).

B. Paul’s experience imitated Jesus (2:5-10)

C. Jesus’ words (Matt. 10:38, 39: Luke 14:33).

II. When we come to Christ we must be willing to lose everything:

**Discussion:**

**I. Positions.**

A. Paul’s position of power and prestige as a Jew. (Phil. 3:4-6).

B. All this was “rubbish” compared to what he gained (Phil. 3:8).

1. To be found in Christ (3:9).

2. To know Christ (3:9)

3. To attain the resurrection of the righteous (3:10-11).

C. Paul gave up all for His Lord, who had given up all for him (2:5-11).

**II. Possessions.**

A. Rich young ruler (Matt. 19:22).

B. Even the necessities of life (Matt. 6:33).

1. Guaranteed only by “losing” them for Christ.

2. If lose livelihood to obey Heb. 10:25 — another way will be provided.

**III. Persons.**

A. Losing one’s life for Christ involves personal relationships (Matt. 10:37-39).

B. One gains more in Christ (Mark 10:29-30).

**IV. Pleasures.**

A. Moses chose affliction over pleasures (Heb. 11:25).

B. Pleasures of this life can choke out the word. (Lk. 8:14).

C. Must not love pleasures more than God (2 Tim. 3:4)

D. Christian finds pleasure in the Lord (Phil. 4:4).

**Conclusion:**

A. Does this mean we can have no positions, possessions, personal relationships, or pleasures?

B. We must come to Christ with this mind set:

1. If the Lord needs anything we have he has it.

2. If any of these things get in our way of serving Him, they are gone!

C. No congregation can realize full potential until membership has this mind set