

# Faith Talk - Mar. 1, 2026

**Series:** Philippians: Together for the Gospel

**Sermon:** The Loss of All Things for the Gospel

**Scripture:** Philippians 3:1-11

## Philippians 3:8-9

*More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them as dung, so that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ—the righteousness from God based on faith.*

## Sermon Summary

This sermon confronted the danger of replacing a relationship with Jesus with religious performance, using Paul's dramatic testimony of abandoning his impressive credentials to gain Christ.

Paul warns against “Judaizers” who taught that salvation required becoming Jewish and keeping the Mosaic Law, including circumcision, clarifying that a true relationship with God comes through worship by the Spirit, boasting in Christ alone, and placing no confidence in the flesh or human effort. Paul lists his own impeccable religious resume: circumcised properly, pure Jewish lineage, Pharisee, church persecutor, blameless Law-keeper, and yet declares all of it “dung” compared to knowing Christ.

The message challenges believers to examine whether their confidence rests in their religious activities, moral behavior, or Christian heritage rather than in Christ alone. True salvation requires confessing that we don't deserve heaven and trusting solely in Jesus' finished work.

Paul's passion was not just knowing about Christ but experiencing Him intimately through resurrection power, fellowship in suffering, and conformity to His death—even if it meant losing status, wealth, and relationships.

## Key Points

- Religion can hinder relationship: self-righteousness and religious effort can keep us from seeing our need for a Savior
- Salvation is by grace through faith alone: not by religious heritage, moral behavior, baptism, or any human effort
- Paul's credentials were impressive but worthless: everything he achieved was "dung" compared to knowing Christ
- Knowing Christ surpasses all things: not just knowing about Him but experiencing Him personally

## Discussion Questions

### Conversations with Adults

1. The sermon lists various religious credentials (Christian parents, baptism, church attendance, moral living). What items would be on your "credentials list"? Share where you might be or have in the past placed confidence in these rather than in Christ alone?
2. How would you explain to a friend or co-worker the difference between "knowing about Jesus" (like knowing facts or following tradition) versus "knowing Jesus" (having a real relationship through faith and the Holy Spirit)?
3. Paul desired to know Christ through living in "the power of His resurrection," experiencing the "fellowship of His sufferings," and being "conformed to His death" as he lived dead and separate from sin. Which of these three aspects of knowing Christ are you most unfamiliar with, and how could you pursue a deeper experience in that area?

### Conversation with Students

1. The message warns that "good things" can keep us from Jesus just as much as "bad things." What "good" religious activities might you be relying on instead of genuine faith in Christ?
2. Paul considered everything worthless compared to knowing Christ. What would you find hardest to give up if following Jesus required it—reputation, friendships, plans for the future, comfort?
3. How would you explain to a friend the difference between "knowing about Jesus" (like knowing facts) versus "knowing Jesus" (having a real relationship)?

### Conversation with Kids

1. Paul had a long list of good things he did, but they couldn't save him. What's the only thing that can save us and get us to heaven?
2. Paul said knowing Jesus was better than anything else in the whole world. What do you love about Jesus?
3. Sometimes people think being good or going to church is what makes God love them. What really makes us part of God's family?

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing that salvation is not about our religious performance but about a relationship with Jesus Christ. We're grateful that You offer eternal life as a free gift.

We ask for help in examining where we've placed confidence in our own efforts, religious activities, or moral behavior rather than in Christ alone. Give us the courage to count as loss anything that competes with or distracts from knowing Jesus more deeply. Help us see our sin clearly so we can confess our need for a Savior rather than boasting in our own righteousness.

We commit to pursuing a genuine relationship with Christ—not just knowing about Him but experiencing Him through resurrection power, fellowship in His sufferings, and conformity to His death. Like Paul, may we consider everything worthless compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord. Give us passion to know Him more intimately, even if it costs us comfort, status, or relationships. In Jesus' name, Amen.