

Sermon Title: "There is Another Way"

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Date: March 27, 2022

Scripture: Philippians 3: 4-12

Passage

4 Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. **7** Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. **8** More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake, I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. **10** I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, **11** if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. **12** Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

Summary

Many times we rely on our accolades, accomplishments and resumes to impress others. Also, before we get to know the beauty of someone's personality, we often want to know their profession, their status, their pedigree. We want others to see us as prominent and influential and want to surround ourselves with those who are like us.. Parents, teachers and others pour into youth that if you work hard, if your resume is competitive enough, you can have a life worth living causing them to internalize that their status equals their worth. While societal accomplishments and accolades are necessary, especially when used to help others to climb, they will not keep us in life's turbulent winds. Paul shows to the prominent people of Philippi and us "a new way." He reminds us that no matter how long our "brag sheet" may be, there is no bigger accomplishment than the value of knowing Jesus for ourselves.

Reflection Questions

1. Describe one of your accomplishments for which you are most proud.
2. Do you think church folk are overly concerned about their status and the status of others? If so, why?
3. How can being overly concerned about the status of others keep us from reaching people for Christ?
4. What needs to "die" within you, so that Christ can be seen more clearly in our lives?
5. How can we use our accomplishments to support others?