

Tuesday

Passionate Faithfulness Is Not Optional!

Today's Scripture Philippians 3

The Philippian letter is especially powerful because of the circumstances in which it is written. Paul writes about all the blessings found in Christ and the joy he has despite his persecution and imprisonment! In fact, even though Philippians is written under some of the harshest circumstances, its message is so positive that false teachers of the prosperity gospel frequently pervert parts of Philippians to justify their false doctrine. One of the things Paul says gives him great joy in Philippians is his hope of eternal life. In Philippians 3:7-14 Paul lays out what he would do to have eternal life: Anything. There Paul writes that he counted his former life as garbage, and that he would gladly given up everything he had and every ounce of his effort one day to receive the heavenly prize!

This would be no surprise to the Philippian church—not only had they been associated with one another for over a decade, but Paul had already told them in Philippians 1:20-26 that he was going to be delivered from his troubles, either by being released from prison or by being executed and going to be with Christ! In fact, he even mentions that he would prefer execution so he could go be with Christ but he plans to make his best effort to stay on earth in order that he might continue to serve God as a minister!

Today, Christians desperately need to follow the example of Paul. Passionate faithfulness is not optional! Philippians teaches us that the most important thing in Paul's life was his faithfulness to God and God's mission of sharing the Gospel. I'd like to encourage you today to read Philippians 3 and ask yourself: what in your life is keeping you from sharing the message of God? What do you need to count as loss and throw away?

Today, I will...Make a list of things I need to “count as loss” and brainstorm how to do so.