

Title: Never a Boring Testimony

Text: Philippians 3:4-14

Target: Your testimony is the story of your past colliding with your future leading you to make a decision for the present. This decision is to understand that everything you thought brought you gain was loss, and what you thought was a loss in Jesus was the ultimate gain. (Jesus + 0 = Everything)

Paul's Testimony is shared from two perspectives: Accountant and an Athlete!

I. Perspective of an Accountant: Takes Inventory

A. My Past: My Loss

Noble Birth: Affirmation (Vs. 5)

- **Circumcised on the 8th day:** Distinct mark of Jewish nation
- **Of the Nation of Israel:** Not a convert to Judaism.
- **Tribe of Benjamin:** Youngest son of Jacob.

Noble Belief: Accolades (Vs. 6)

- **Hebrew of Hebrews:** Not a Hellenistic Jew.
- **Pharisee:** To be separate and expert in the law.
- **Persecutor of the Church:** Zealous to end Christianity.
- **Blameless:** Obedient to the Law

B. My Present: My Gain

New Birth: Assurance (Vs. 7-8)

- **Change in Purpose:** *"Sake of Christ" (7)*
- **Change in Pursuit:** *"Knowing Christ" (8)*
- **Change in Passion:** *"Gain Christ" (8)*

New Belief: Acceptance (Vs. 9-11)

- **Imputed Righteousness:** *"found in Him" (9)*
- **Intimate Relationship:** *"know Him" (10)*

II. Prerequisite of an Athlete: Takes Initiative

- **Proper Awareness:** *"not...obtained...or am already perfect" (12)*
- **Persistent Effort:** *"press on" (12)*
- **Pointed Concentration:** *"forgetting what lies behind" (13)*
- **Pure Motivation:** *"prize...the upward call of God"*

Take Away: Live your life every day TAKING INVENTORY of what is truly lasting GAIN and TAKE INTIATIVE to make your life count!