

*“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.” Philippians 3:7 NIV*

Last year when we were preparing to move, we had a daunting task, we have to downsize from our house to a small two bedroom condo. It was not something we looked forward to doing. Not only were there our things that accumulated, but items and furniture from our mothers’ apartments after they passed on.

So we had to take a bit of time to see what we had and decide what to keep and what to let go of one way or another. Though it was forced by the move, the process was a good one, and it forced us to do something we probably should have done sooner in getting down to what , of our possessions was the most important.

The verse quoted in Chapter 3 of Paul’s letter to the Philippians comes in the middle of such an “inventory” In fact the “language” in the Greek that Paul is using, is the same that someone would use in balancing debits and credits on a financial ledger.

He has listed all of his accomplishments, as well as his Hebrew “pedigree” to his flock as all of his “assets” They are quite impressive indeed. I would suspect that any good Hebrew of that time would even be envious of Paul’s Jewish “assets”. But in one turn of the phrase, Paul takes those “assets” and discounts them completely. Now they are on the “loss” side of his life.

Christ turns out to be the most valuable asset, even though that “asset” has really put Paul in prison, forced him to be persecuted, and kept him financially “on –edge”.

Still Paul is emphatic about the “gain “ of Christ, even to the point of saying that(figuratively speaking) he has taken all his other “assets” out to the garbage !

What are your “assets” in your life? Have you ever taken an “inventory” of them? What do you consider valuable? How does your faith in Christ fit in that “inventory” ?

It seems for Paul that his faith in Christ was the only asset he need. In the end Paul’s faithfulness to it has transformed the Western World.

On your list where is your faith? What priority do you give it?

The answer to that question will inevitably determine the vitality of your faith, and what place it will have in all you do.

The word of my testimony is when you do let something you consider “valuable” or a “gain” in your to gain Christ, you will never be disappointed in the outcome.

Pr. John Van Haneghan