

**Devotional from Pastor Ho**  
**March 31, 2021**

**Philippians 3:8**, *“Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.”*

As we approach Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, this verse helps us to reflect on what our Lord has done for us. In its context, Paul is contending against the Judaizers, whom he calls “the dogs,” “the evildoers,” and “those who mutilate the flesh” (3:2), because these Jewish believers advocate that Gentile believers have to be circumcised in order to be God’s people. Against them Paul argues that we [Paul and the Philippian church] are the circumcision, because our confidence is not in the flesh [by keeping the law of circumcision]; instead, it is in worshiping by the Spirit of God and in glorying in Christ Jesus.

Then Paul gives his own reasons for confidence in the flesh, which are more than those of his opponents, if indeed he takes pride in them. Yet, he turns around and says that they are liabilities instead of assets to him (“counted as loss,” 3:7), because this is “a righteousness of my own that comes from the law,” rather than “the righteousness from God that depends on faith” in Christ (3:9). He further emphasizes that he has suffered “the loss of all things and count them as rubbish” for the sake of Christ, because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ, and in order to gain Christ. How are we to understand this in light of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday?

Paul expressly mentions his purpose in counting his accomplishments and heritage as rubbish, which is really a Semitic rhetoric of expressing the “surpassing worth” of the alternative, namely, knowing Christ Jesus and his work (3:10). We shall reflect on one part of it for Good Friday, and the other part next week: “that I may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.” For Paul, Christ’s death and resurrection is the firstfruits (1 Cor 15:20); if we are to share in his resurrection, we also share in his sufferings by dying with him. Indeed, when we let our old self die with him, all our heritage and accomplishments in this age are no more than rubbish, while our intimacy with him coming from knowing him serves us well in this age and the age to come. Let’s remind ourselves this week, that the remainder of our life on earth is a process of “becoming like him in his death.”

**Prayer:** My Lord and my God, you have died for me. Teach me how to die to self and live for you. Amen.

## 何牧師的靈修

2021年3月31日

腓立比書 3 章 8 節：“不但如此，我也將萬事當作有損的，因我以認識我主基督耶穌為至寶。我為他已經丟棄萬事，看作糞土，為要得著基督。”

當我們臨近週五的受難節和復活節主日時，這節經文幫助我們思考我們的主為我們所做的事。經文的背景是保羅與猶太人爭辯，他稱這些人為“犬類”，“作惡的”和“妄自行割的”（3:2），因為這些猶太信徒倡導外邦信徒必須受割禮才能成為神的子民。保羅反對他們說，我們（保羅和腓立比教會）才是真受割禮的，因為我們的信心不在肉體（通過遵守割禮法律）。反而，我們的信心是在以神的靈敬拜和在基督裡誇口。

然後保羅給出他自己信靠肉體的理由，假如他對那些肉體的事感到自豪的話，那自信將遠高於對方。然而，他轉過來說，對他來說，它們不是資產而是累贅（“當作有損的”，3:7），因為這是“自己因律法而得的義，”而不是在基督裡“因信神而來的義”（3:9）。他進一步強調，因為他以認識基督的為至寶，以及為要得著基督，他“丟棄萬事，看作糞土”。在受難日和復活節主日之際，我們如何理解這一點？

保羅明確提到他把自己的成就和傳承看作糞土的目的，這實際上是希伯來文式的修辭，為表達替代品的超越價值，即認識基督耶穌和他的作為（3:10）。在受難日時，我們將思想其中的一部分，下週將思想另一部分：“和他一同受苦，效法他的死。”對於保羅來說，基督的死和復活是初熟的果子（歌林多前書 15:20）。如果我們要和他一同復活，我們也要和他一同受苦，與他同死。的確，當我們讓自己的老我與他同死時，我們今生的所有傳承和成就不過是糞土，而我們因認識祂而與祂有的親密關係，在今生和來世對我們有諸多好處。讓我們在本週提醒自己，我們在地上剩餘的日子是“效法他的死”的過程。

禱告：我的主，我的神，你已為我死。請基督我如何對自己死，而為你活。阿門。

## 何牧师的灵修

2021年3月31日

腓立比书 3 章 8 节：“不但如此，我也将万事当作有损的，因我以认识我主基督耶稣为至宝。我为他已经丢弃万事，看作粪土，为要得着基督。”

当我们临近周五的受难节和复活节主日时，这节经文帮助我们思考我们的主为我们所做的事。经文的背景是保罗与犹太人争辩，他称这些人为“犬类”，“作恶的”和“妄自行割的”（3:2），因为这些犹太信徒倡导外邦信徒必须受割礼才能成为神的子民。保罗反对他们说，我们（保罗和腓立比教会）才是真受割礼的，因为我们的信心不在肉体（通过遵守割礼法律）。反而，我们的信心是在以神的灵敬拜和在基督里夸口。

然后保罗给出他自己信靠肉体的理由，假如他对那些肉体的事感到自豪的话，那自信将远高于对方。然而，他转过来说，对他来说，它们不是资产而是累赘（“当作有损的”，3:7），因为这是“自己因律法而得的义，”而不是在基督里“因信神而来的义”（3:9）。他进一步强调，因为他以认识基督的为至宝，以及为要得着基督，他“丢弃万事，看作粪土”。在受难日和复活节主日之际，我们如何理解这一点？

保罗明确提到他把自己的成就和传承看作粪土的目的，这实际上是希伯来文式的修辞，为表达替代品的超越价值，即认识基督耶稣和他的作为（3:10）。在受难日时，我们将思想其中的一部分，下周将思想另一部分：“和他一同受苦，效法他的死。”对于保罗来说，基督的死和复活是初熟的果子（歌林多前书 15:20）。如果我们要和他一同复活，我们也要和他一同受苦，与他同死。的确，当我们让自己的老我与他同死时，我们今生的所有传承和成就不过是粪土，而我们因认识祂而与他有的亲密关系，在今生和来世对我们有诸多好处。让我们在本周提醒自己，我们在地上剩余的日子是“效法他的死”的过程。

祷告：我的主，我的神，你已为我死。请基督我如何对自己死，而为你活。阿门。