

Easter



at the Opera House
April 21st



Successful People Can Be Lost Too

Philippians 3:4-11

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Dave Lomas

Philippians 3:4-11

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I

may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

(verses 5-6)

“circumcised on the eighth day”

“of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin”

“a Hebrew of Hebrews”

Law degree? Pharisee

Zeal? hunted and hurt Christians

Righteousness based on the law: flawless

“There's something particularly sad about it, something that doesn't have very much to do with physical circumstances, or the economy, or any of the stuff that gets talked about in the news. It's more like a stomach-level sadness. I see it in myself and my friends in different ways. It manifests itself as a kind of lostness. The sadness that the book is about, and that I was

going through, was a real American-type of sadness. I was white, upper-middle-class, obscenely well educated, had way more career success than I could have legitimately hoped for and was sort of adrift. A lot of my friends were the same way. Some of them were deeply into drugs, others were unbelievable workaholics. Some were going to singles bars every night. You could see it played out in 20 different ways, but it's the same thing."

- David Foster Wallace, *Interview with Salon*

"Such a person must have no stable or solid foundation to build upon, and yet nonetheless tries to build his way out of his problem. It's an impossible situation. You can't compensate for having a foundation made of quicksand by building a new story on top. But this person takes no notice and hopes that the problem down in the foundation won't be found out if only the construction work on the top keeps going."

- Matias Dalsgaard

"Our greatest fear should not be failure, but of succeeding at something that doesn't really matter."

- D.L. Moody

Luke 15:1-2

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Philippians 3:7-8

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.

Philippians 3:10

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection...

“Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you!

Lo, you were within,¹ but I outside, seeking there for you, and upon the shapely things you have made I rushed headlong – I, misshapen.

You were with me, but I was not with you.

They held me back far from you, those things which would have no being, were they not in you.

You called, shouted, broke through my deafness;

you flared, blazed, banished my blindness;

you lavished your fragrance, I gasped;

and now I pant for you;² I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst;³ you touched me, and I burned for your peace.”

- St. Augustine