

**A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians**

**Brothers and sisters:**

**Whatever gains I had, these I have come  
to consider a loss because of Christ.**

**More than that, I even consider everything as a loss  
because of the supreme good  
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.**

**For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things  
and I consider them so much rubbish,  
that I may gain Christ and be found in him,  
not having any righteousness of my own  
based on the law but that which comes  
through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God,  
depending on faith to know him  
and the power of his resurrection  
and the sharing of his sufferings  
by being conformed to his death, if somehow  
I may attain the resurrection from the dead.**

**It is not that I have already taken hold of it  
or have already attained perfect maturity,  
but I continue my pursuit in hope  
that I may possess it,**

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**since I have indeed  
been taken possession of by Christ Jesus.**

**Brothers, I for my part do not consider  
myself to have taken possession.**

**Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind  
but straining forward to what lies ahead,  
I continue my pursuit toward the goal,  
the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus.**

**The Word of the Lord**