

## **Born Losers**

by Darrell B. Harrison

Christianity presents mankind with one of the great paradoxical considerations in all of human history: to gain is to give, to live is to die, to win is to lose.

When was the last time you thought of your faith in those terms? There is something to be said of the fact that the call to follow Christ is a call to live life in the inverse, as if looking through a mirror, and not according to the established patterns and templates of the world (1 John 2:15). As men, developing and adhering to such a mindset can be particularly challenging given our innate desire to accomplish, achieve and acquire.

From our earliest youth we are programmed to pursue and conquer, oftentimes without regard for or consideration of the vanquished who are subsequently left in our wake. Whether it was on the baseball diamond in Little League or the gridiron at a Division 1 school or navigating our way up the proverbial corporate ladder, it has been ingrained within us to buy into the adage, "he who dies with the most toys wins."

The interesting thing about "dying with the most toys", however, is that those toys don't go with you when you die (and, yes, you *will* die someday). Perhaps that's a revelation to some of you, and if so, I don't mean to burst your bubble. Nevertheless, as Christian men, we need to understand that who you and I were *born* to be and who we were *born-again* to be are two completely different things.

Paul puts it this way in **Philippians 3:7-8** (NASB), "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ."

In the above passage, the word "were" is the key. That one small, four-letter word is Paul's "mirror", if you will, establishing his recognition of the fact that, as a follower of Jesus Christ, there is now a significant distinction between who he was born to be and who he was born-again to be. In the flesh, Paul was privy to all the rights, traditions, privileges and customs associated with having been born a Jew (Philippians 3:4b-6). However, as a follower of Christ, none of that was of any significance anymore.

The man who had been born to gain had been born-again to lose.

As men of God, we need to routinely be in God's Word as a constant reminder to ourselves that the accumulation of "toys" is not why we are here. The great paradox of Christianity is that it is a worldview based in the concept of "addition by subtraction" - the more of ourselves we lose, the more of Christ we gain. "...that I may gain Christ..." is the credo of a born-again loser. May God grant that it be ours as well.