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Phil. 3:4-14

I am going to deal with this section under three portions, and I am going first to read a very brief summary of the three portions. The first of these - I will read a little from vs. 7 and 8, only portions of the verses: - "But what things were gain ~~to~~ to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, I count all things but loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord;" ~~(verses~~ end of vers 8, and then verse 9) and then second, "that I may win Christ, / And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but ~~that~~ that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith; ~~Yea~~ That I may know him, and the power ~~of~~ of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death," And then third, reading / from the next ~~verse~~ simply a portion from ~~verse~~ verse 11: "If by any means I might attain" ~~unto the resurrection of the~~ ~~dead~~ 12, "Not as though I had already attained," 13, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do," verse 14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

I would like to discuss then this unified passage which we read here from Paul's epistle. Maybe somebody is surprised that I didn't start at the beginning of a chapter, but I ~~believe~~ believe most of you know that our chapter divisions were put in by an English archbishop in the ~~both~~ 13th century, that Paul wrote his epistle as one complete unit, and the chapters divisions are often an interruption, sometimes a very helpful interruption, sometimes one that is a great hindrance. But it is always good to see what verses belong together, and ~~and~~ this is a definite unified section from verse 4 through verse 14, though of course related to what precedes and what follows.

But in this section, then, the first of the thoughts that is presented is presented in these words: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." We will entitle this: "Paul's attitude toward the good things of this world." Now Paul is not at this point discussing his attitude toward the ~~evil~~ evil things of this world. We read something of his attitude on that in our