

Scripture this morning. For instance, we read, "But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not to one another," Everyone knows that these are evil. There are certain attitudes; there are certain actions which we take; there are certain emotions which well up in every human being which are definitely evil. And everyone knows they are evil, and everyone knows that he deserves punishment for them. Everyone has a guilt complex on account of them. And even if he doesn't, if anyone becomes so hardened that he doesn't realize them in himself, every person, no matter ~~how~~ who, feels disgusted with other people when they manifest these qualities. He feels very definitely that they are wrong and wicked in the other person, even if he doesn't see them in himself. Now these are ^{very} important in life; they are in all of us, and they are a great problem for all of us. But ~~that~~ that is not what Paul is talking about in this ~~verse~~ first part of this section. He says, "But ~~what~~ what things were gain to me, these I counted loss. He is talking ~~it~~ here about the advantages that he had; about his training, about his education, about his zeal, ~~and~~ ^{he thought} about his standing for what/was ~~was~~ right. He was talking about the good things of life. And there are many good things in this world. God does not want us to think that the good things are evil. And we should not think that the good things are evil. The good things are here for people to use. They are here for ablessing to us. We can rejoice when we have advantages in life. We do not turn our back on them or try to get rid of them. God wants His people to enjoy the good things of this world. But, Paul is giving us here, not, an attack upon these things. Paul is giving us a statement of their relative importance. He says, "what things were gain/~~for~~ ^{to} me, these I counted loss for Christ," ~~There~~ There are these wonderful things in the world, the beauties of nature, the glories of the wonderful things in life, that God makes available to us. The great blessings that even the wicked can enjoy, and that ~~God~~ God's people certainly should enjoy. There are these good things in life that God wants us to have, but He wants us to realize ~~their~~ their relative importance in the scheme of things. "What