

things were gain to me, these I counted loss for Christ." These ~~xxx~~ things are fine things; they are valuable things; but, compared/~~to~~ what we/have through Christ, they are ~~xxx~~ absolutely nothing. Elsewhere in the Scripture we find greater elaboration of this theme (?). Why are all these wonderful things of life to be counted as ~~nothing~~ nothing, in comparison with Christ? For many reasons. For one, because ~~because~~ everything in this world, apart from Christ, is tainted with evil evil attitudes. We notice this list of definitely/~~evil things~~ things that were described in our responsive reading. But all these good things we do not find in a pure state in this world. In this world every one of them is tainted with evil. ~~It~~ It is only Christ who is absolutely pure - absolutely free from that which is evil, and we should ~~realize~~ realize their relative importance. In addition to that, these good things of life don't last. There are many ~~things~~ things which in our youth we just love, which give us tremendous pleasure, which seem to us to be so important that/~~everything~~ nothing else almost is worth thinking of, comparison to the joy and the pleasure we get from these things. And then, in time, we get ~~tired~~ tired of them; in time they satiate us; in time we find that our appetite for them has disappeared. The good things of this world, fine as many of them are, do not last. It's only Christ that who lasts - through all eternity. The good things of this world then - ALL - ~~xxx~~ are mixed with evil - except Christ. All of them are not lasting; they come to an end - every one of them. And all of them can become means of evil if they take up so much of our attention, so much of ~~xxx~~ our time that they distract our attention from that which is ~~xxx~~ most important of all. A

A few years ago I made a little walking trip in Norway. There in Norway I rode in a boat down through one of those great fjords, and then I came up one of the side ~~f~~ fjords, and came ~~into~~ into a little dock there where the boat stopped, and I got ~~f~~ off the boat. And I walked up a valley - up the side of a hill, along a very interesting~~xxx~~ road. I saw there remains from World War II where the Germans had had their outposts at the different points.