

that we are crucified away from that which is wrong in our lives, ~~but~~ - as (unclear) Christ's crucifixion is - we are given the benefits of it - but ~~also~~ also that we have a fellowship in His ~~f~~ sufferings, and that He uses us in some way to advance His purposes in the world. If we truly belong to Christ, everything in our lives is under God's direction, and we can rejoice when we ~~enjoy~~ enjoy something of experiencing the fellowship of the sufferings of ~~Christ~~ ~~Christ~~ Christ. I had a letter from a man not so long ago who had been quite active in a group of Christians. And then ~~the~~ he thought he became disillusioned, and he decided there were many things they did that he didn't like, and he wrote me just a ~~he~~ brief word on a Christmas card, but he said he ~~got-an-entirely-different-view~~ had gone with an entirely different group, and oh, he said, "It is wonderful to be with people who are so refreshingly Christian." And I was inclined to send him a note and say ~~that I was glad~~ I thought it was wonderful too that he was having such a happy experience, but I, being quite a bit ~~he~~ older than he is, can assure him that wherever he goes he'll find that people are still human, wherever you go. And when you join with a new group of Christians you haven't been with before, you see the wonderful qualities in their lives and have the glorious fellowship, and it ~~is~~ perfectly grand how refreshingly Christian they are. But when you are with them long enough to begin to see below the surface, and begin to see some of the disagreements and the different viewpoints, and different attitudes, and ~~begin to see~~ some of the ~~criticisms~~ criticisms of one another, and while some are very busy ~~to~~ trying to advance the work of God, others are standing on the sidelines picking little points (?) flaws(?) in them and trying to criticize them. And when you observe this a little bit, you decide, maybe you'd better move on to another group to find what is refreshingly Christian. But we find our joy, if we are Christians, not in other Christians, but in the Lord Jesus Christ. The standard of ~~Christ~~ Christians is way above the standard of the world. And through our lives we will get great blessing from the contact with Christians, but we will find they differ among themselves just as much as people of the world do, and we will find that they all come very, very far short of the standards that Christ has set before