

#5 - LIVING MEANS CHRIST
(Our Objective: To Know Him)

v1 - "Rejoice in the Lord"

- make Him your joy
- Christ consciousness is a "safeguard" against error

v2 - "Beware" (3X!) - Paul jealously guarding the Truth of the Gospel

- legalism is an insult to Christ!

v3 - "the (true) circumcision" - the only covenant people are those of faith in Christ (plus nothing!)

- "worship in spirit" = don't bring flesh offerings (Matt 7:21ff)
- "glory in Jesus Christ" = not personal achievement
- "no confidence in flesh" = no value in externals

v4-6 - Man at his worst and at His best... still flesh (apart from Christ) - Ro 8:5-8

v7 - The language of business/economics:

- "were gain/profit to me" - gave Paul passage in his religious world
- "for the sake of Christ" - Christ had come between (dia - "through") Paul and his old ideals
= Christ our standard for all valuation
- "counted as loss" - not neutral, but negative; detrimental, damaging
- Acts 27:9ff

v8 - "all things" - not just his religious credentials

- they pale in comparison to the "surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus My Lord"
- ... "rubbish" - God's estimation of our achievements apart from Christ

v9 - "found in Him" - our home; a one verse commentary on book of Romans!

- two kinds of righteousness:
 - ... "of my own" - DIY righteousness: self-generated/made
 - ... "comes from God" - His righteousness (matches what He requires)

v10 - "That I may know Him" (Jo 17:3) - deep, personal, participatory, experiential knowing
... "power of His resurrection" - no fear of defeat
... "participation in His sufferings" - suffering born of obedience
... "conformed to His death" - no Christ-likeness in by-passing the cross

v11 - So I may walk as a living one among the dead!

v12 - "lay hold of" - make this reality/exchange my own
(a fullness/completion in which I am not yet functionally perfect)

v13 - "this one thing" - intentional, determined... no complacency
- "forgetting what is behind" - no longer named by past
(successes, failures, revelation)
- "reaching forward" - exertion, stretching, hands and hearts open

v14 - "Press on!"
- "the goal" - "That I might know You and be an expression of Your life"
- "the prize" - revelation of the nature of God
- "the upward call" - sound God's voice makes calling us unto Himself
("above the line")

v15 - Never make a premature claim of perfection of opinion/attitude!

v16 - Be careful to "walk the line" (of new revelation) in dependency upon Christ

v18 - Beware of those who turn Christian liberty into un-Christian license

v19 - "Whose God is their appetite!" - no authority outside own personal satisfaction
(the believer's appetite is for God)

"Their glory is in their shame" - upside down values/morality
(the believer is ashamed of what doesn't glorify Christ, edify His Body)

"They set their minds on earthly things" - pleasure, popularity, possessions
- earthly "horizoned"
(the believer sets his mind on the things above)

vv20-21 - All our supply comes from above - we are heavenly "horizoned"
- He is our source for every spirit, soul, body need