

a chance of her escaping. And the good things of this world, if they stand in the way and prevent us from getting that which is most ~~important~~ important; if they take up time and energy that should go to that which is ~~more~~ most important; no matter how good they may be, they become like these which destroyed the life of that woman. They may keep us from getting that which will make it possible for us to be saved eternally; or perhaps, even ~~more~~ more important, they ~~take up~~ may take up the time and energy which God can use in using us to lead others to the knowledge of salvation, in leading others to be saved through all eternity, so that they and we together ^{could} enjoy the good things that God has made through all eternity. God wants us to enjoy the good things of life, but if these good things get in the way of that which ~~is~~ is most important, then they can become bad things. And so Paul said, "What things were gain ^{to} ~~for~~ me, these I counted loss for Christ//. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for Christ." He said, "I count ~~all things~~ them but refuse, but dung," he said, "that I may win Christ." Compared with Christ there is nothing else in life that is worth anything. They have their place. They should have their place. But their place must be properly understood, and always subordinate to that which is most important/.

And so our second feature of this passage, at which we want to look, is what Paul thought was so important that in comparison with it, all the things that were gain to him he counted as loss. He counted them as but refuse in comparison. He said, "for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:// * * * that * * * I may be found in him, not having mine ~~own~~ own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith!" And here we have the heart of the Gospel. Here we have that which is most important, should be most important, in the life of every one of ~~us~~ us. No matter how much there may be that is valuable, ^{that's} ~~is~~ wonderful, ^{that's} ~~is~~ excellent, in the glorious, lovely things that God has given us in His creation. If they fill our thoughts to the point that we do not learn how to receive the righteousness which is of