

WE HAVE LEARNED FROM CHAPTER ONE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES CAN ROB US OF OUR JOY AND IN CHAPTER TWO THAT PEOPLE CAN ROB US OF OUR JOY IN CHAPTER THREE WE WILL LEARN HOW THINGS CAN ROB US OF OUR JOY

WHAT PAUL DESCRIBES HERE IS THE SPIRITUAL MIND WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE SINGLE MIND AND THE SUBMISSIVE MIND IN CHAPTERS ONE AND TWO AND LEARNED HOW TO CORRECTLY DEAL WITH DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES AND DIFFICULT PEOPLE NOT ALLOWING THEM TO ROB US OF OUR JOY

V18-19 ARE THE KEY VERSES THOSE WHO SET THEIR MINDS ON EARTHLY THINGS AND VERSE 20 THOSE WHO SET THEIR MINDS ON HEAVENLY THINGS THE THINGS THAT ARE FROM GOD AND NOT FROM MEN LOOKING AT EARTH FROM HEAVENS POINT OF VIEW HAVING A SPIRITUAL MIND

PEOPLE GET CAUGHT UP NOT ONLY IN TANGIBLE THINGS THE THINGS WE CAN SEE FEEL AND TOUCH BUT ALSO IN INTANGIBLE THINGS LIKE REPUTATION FAME AND ACHIEVEMENT IN VERSE SEVEN PAUL WRITES ABOUT THE THINGS THAT WERE GAIN TO HIM AND IN VERSE EIGHTEEN ALL THE THINGS HE COUNTED AS LOSS IN VIEW OF THE SURPASSING VALUE OF KNOWING CHRIST JESUS AS HIS LORD

EVEN TODAY MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALL THE TANGIBLES ALL THAT MONEY CAN BUY MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALL THE THINGS THAT MONEY CAN BUY HAVE LOST THE THINGS THAT MONEY CANNOT BUY

IN PAUL'S CASE IT WAS HIS RELIGIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS GAL 1:14 IT GAVE HIM A FEELING OF SELF SATISFACTION HE HAD ENOUGH MORALITY TO KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE BUT NOT ENOUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS TO GET HIM INTO HEAVEN

PAUL HAD TO LOSE HIS RELIGION TO FIND SALVATION PAUL LEARNED THAT THERE WERE TWO KINDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS OR SPIRITUAL WEALTH WORKS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ONLY FAITH RIGHTEOUSNESS IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

V1-3 PAUL STARTS OFF WITH AN EXHORTATION LOOK OUT FOR DOGS LOOK OUT FOR EVIL WORKERS LOOK OUT FOR THE CIRCUMCISION HE IS TALKING ABOUT THE JEWS THEY TAUGHT THAT YOU HAD TO BECOME JEWISH BEFORE YOU COULD BECOME A CHRISTIAN

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES CANNOT SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS ONLY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST CAN DO THAT

IN CONTRAST PAUL DESCRIBES TRUE CIRCUMCISION THOSE WHO WORSHIP IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD AND PUT NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH OR THE WORKS OF MAN FOR SALVATION ROM 2:29

SOME BELIEVE THEY ARE GETTING TO HEAVEN BY FAITH PLUS WORKS THEY BELIEVE GETTING TO HEAVEN IS LIKE ROWING A BOAT ONE OAR IN WORKS AND THE OTHER OAR IS FAITH AND IT TAKES BOTH TO GET TO HEAVEN THE PROBLEM WITH THAT IS NOBODY IS GOING TO HEAVEN IN A ROW BOAT

THERE IS ONLY ONE GOOD WORK THAT TAKES THE SINNER TO HEAVEN THE FINISHED WORK OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS HEB 10:11-14 WE ARE SANCTIFIED BY HIS WORK NOT OURS

V4-6 PAUL KNEW THE FUTILITY OF TRYING TO ATTAIN SALVATION BY MEANS OF GOOD WORKS BORN A HEBREW CIRCUMCISED THE EIGHTH DAY ENTERING THE COVENANT OF THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN ONE OF JACOBS FAVORITE SONS A HEBREW OF HEBREW PAUL'S HUMAN HERITAGE WAS SOMETHING HE WAS PROUD OF

A PHARISEE THE STRICTEST OF THE RELIGIOUS JEWS HE KEPT THE LAW AND THE TRADITIONS PERFECTLY NOT ONLY THAT HE OPPOSED THOSE WHO REJECTED HIS JEWISH FAITH PURSUIING AND PERSECUTING THEM PUTTING SOME TO DEATH

PAUL THOUGHT HE WAS RIGHT WITH GOD HE WAS SINCERE BUT HE WAS SINCERELY WRONG HE WAS LOOKING AT THE OUTSIDE NOT THE INSIDE HE WAS COMPARING HIMSELF WITH THE STANDARDS OF MEN NOT GOD OUTWARDLY HE SEEMED RIGHTEOUS BUT HIS SINFUL ATTITUDES AND APPETITES WERE SEEN BY GOD MATT 23:27

THE STANDARD IS NOT MAN'S RIGHTEOUSNESS BUT GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS SO PAUL ABANDONED HIS WORKS RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST THAT IS OURS BY FAITH