

I. Beware the “elite” Christians! (v. 2)

- A. “Dogs”
- B. “Evil workers” (see Philippians 2:25)
- C. “The mutilation” (see Genesis 17:10-14; Jeremiah 4:4; 9:25-26)
- D. “Judaizing” Christians (see Galatians; Acts 14-15; Colossians)

II. A people holy to God (v. 3)

- A. What people are truly pure and holy before God?
- B. Changed time, changed requirements (see Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47; 26:23)
- C. Followers of Christ are the true “circumcision” (see Acts 16:3; Galatians 6:16)
- D. Worship by the Spirit of God (see John 4:23-24; Romans 8:14-17; 12:1; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 14:20-25; Hebrews 9:14)
- E. Glory in Christ Jesus (Romans 5:11; 15:17; 1 Corinthians 15:31; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Galatians 6:14; Philippians 1:26; 1 Kings 20:11; Proverbs 25:14; 27:1; Psalm 52:1; 94:4; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Deuteronomy 10:21)
- F. Put no confidence in the flesh (John 3:6; Genesis 12:4; 15:6).
- G. Where is boasting? (Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:14; Romans 3:27)

III. The loss of good things and the gain of the best (vv. 4-8)

- A. Two can play at this game! (see Romans 9:4-5; 11:1; Genesis 35:16-18; Judges 1:21; Acts 22:3; 26:4-5 Galatians 1:14; Acts 23:6; Numbers 25:6-13; Psalm 106:30-31; Galatians 1:13-14)
- B. What was gain has become loss.
- C. Self-righteousness or Christ's righteousness? (Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:20; 3:1, 3)

IV. Glorifying in Christ.

- A. All other ground for boasting before God and men is excluded.
- B. Why? (Romans 3:27)
- C. Something done for us (Exodus 34; 2 Corinthians 3-4)
- D. There is no grounds for elitism in Christianity
- E. Everything that might be a ground of confidence is harmful, in view of the one true boast, the knowledge of Christ
- F. Ruthlessly set aside any other confidence before God or man.