

I. The nature of true believers (v. 1-3)

A. True believers rejoice in the Lord

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them." (John 17:13)

B. True believers guard against false teaching

C. True believers worship by the Holy Spirit

"God is Spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:24)

D. True believers glory in Christ

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect." (1 Corinthians 15:10)

E. True believers do not trust in themselves

II. The religious credits do not impress God (v. 4-6)

A. Salvation is not by religious ritual

B. Salvation is not by belonging to a certain race

C. Salvation is not by human importance

D. Salvation is not by following tradition

E. Salvation is not by religious observance

F. Salvation is not by sincerity to a cause

G. Salvation is not by following the law

III. A right relationship with God comes from knowing Christ (v. 7-9)

A. To know Christ we forsake all hope of self-righteousness

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

B. To know Christ is our highest privilege

"The Kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field." (Matthew 13:44)

C. To know Christ is to enter into a personal relationship

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” (John 17:3)

D. To know Christ is to have true righteousness

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” (Romans 3:22)

E. To know Christ is entered into by faith

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
(Romans 5:1)