

uprightness that comes from the Torah, blameless. ⁷But all that used to be a gain to me I now consider to be a loss because of Messiah. ⁸More than that, I consider everything to be of no significance in view of the supreme value of knowing Messiah Jesus my lord. ²⁶

Because of him I have suffered the loss of all things and consider them so much filth, so that I may gain Messiah, and be found within his will, not having an uprightness of my own based on the Torah, but one that is through faith in Messiah ²⁷ — the uprightness that comes from God based on faith. ²⁸ ¹⁰My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, ¹¹knowing that I will indeed attain to the advance resurrection ²⁹ from among the dead persons.

^{3,12}Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to get a grip on the goal, because I have also been taken hold of by Messiah Jesus. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have obtained the goal. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, ¹⁴I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly invitation in Messiah Jesus. ³⁰

¹⁵Therefore, all who are mature should think this way too. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you also. ¹⁶In any case, we must live up to whatever truth we have obtained. ¹⁷Join in imitating me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For I often told you, and now say again

²⁶Ps. 110:1, *adoni*, all 195 times the title of non-Deity. Cp. 1 Tim. 2:5.

²⁷And "the faith of Messiah," the faith expressed in Jesus' obedience to his Father, God. This is not only faith in Jesus but the same faith as Jesus had. Christians are to preach what Jesus preached as Gospel, the Gospel about the Kingdom of God (Mk. 1:14-15; Lk. 4:43).

²⁸The obedience of faith (Rom. 1:5; 16:26; Heb. 5:9) which is the basis of true Christianity.

²⁹The *exanastasis*: "out-resurrection," advance-guard resurrection, the first resurrection of Rev. 20:4.

³⁰In 1 Thess. 4:13-17 Paul described the catching up to meet the descending lord Messiah in the air in order to accompany him, as many texts imply, to his position on earth as King of the coming Kingdom of God. Jesus is coming back to the earth, not going away again! The first resurrection will bring all the faithful back to life from their unconscious sleep of death (Ps. 13:3, etc). Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection program and "those who belong to Christ" will be raised to immortality at his future Coming, *Parousia* (1 Cor. 15:23).