



## Daily Devotionals

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### PHILIPPIANS 3:18-19 THE GIFT OF COMPARISON

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<sup>18</sup> For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

A small light is best seen on the darkest night. The speed of a train is best experienced against an immediate background of stationary structures. The recognition of the excellence of an object is enhanced by being observed in comparison with those of lesser quality. At the same time, take something that looks white against a dark background and place it on something that is truly white and it is observed to be a light gray or beige. In this world our most accurate evaluations are based on comparison and contrast.

St. Paul has just given us the standard of his life with which we are to compare our lives, and now he presents us with a contrasting background upon which we can see how we are to live in negative contrast. The specific identification of the parties of which he speaks is not important – they are present in every generation and take many different forms. Their lives deny the reality of the cross of Christ, their goal is self exaltation, they strive for worldly fame and power, but their destination is eternal separation from God. The simple fact is that those who live godless lives now will dwell in the Godless eternity they have chosen.

In truth, in comparison to the backgrounds of black and white, most of our lives show up as some shade of gray. As Christians our goal should always be to strive to live lives of increasing brightness – lives that more closely conform to that of Christ Jesus. We are called to grasp the white of kingdom living and reject the black of the worldly life.

***Father God, thank you for not leaving me without examples of how I am to live my life in obedience to your perfect will. May my eyes ever be open to learn from both the positive examples and the negative models that exist around me. Help me to use both as two stars for plotting my journey of obedient faith through this life. Amen.***

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