

# The Perfect Perspective

Seeing Things Through an Eternal Lens  
Philippians 1:12-18

**The Fundamental Question:** How can we develop the kind of perspective that thoroughly enjoys life regardless of our circumstances?

The Mathematical Equation:

**A lesson from the life of Paul (our model):**

Paul was short...His \_\_\_\_\_ Focus (Vs. 1:3)

Paul was bald... His \_\_\_\_\_ Focus (Vs. 1:4-5)

Paul's Posture... His \_\_\_\_\_ Focus (Vs. 1:6-8)

Paul's Walk... His \_\_\_\_\_ Focus (Vs. 1:9-11)

*<sup>12</sup> But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,*

Paul's Glasses... His \_\_\_\_\_ Focus (Vs. 1:12-18)

**Perfect tense:** *The verb tense used by the writer to describe a completed verbal action that occurred in the past but which produced a state of being or a result that exists in the present (in relation to the writer). The **emphasis** of the perfect is not the **past** action so much as it is as such but the **present** "state of affairs" resulting from the past action.*

As believers, God's desire is that our focus would not be on the \_\_\_\_\_ (2Cor. 4:18) but we would learn to walk by \_\_\_\_\_ (2Cor. 5:7).

***13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;***

What sphere or place of influence has God placed you to be an ambassador?

***14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.***

Not only does God want you to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ with your actions, but also to \_\_\_\_\_ His Word with your mouth.

***15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;***

The promise is throughout your life there will indeed be some against you. The question for us is what will we focus on? Is your focus on \_\_\_\_\_ or on the \_\_\_\_\_ of affairs?

***17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.***

What is motivating you to do what you do? Even those in ministry can be doing good things but have the wrong motivation. Are you living the \_\_\_\_\_-filled life or the \_\_\_\_\_ filled life?

***18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.***

God's desire for believers is to experience great joy in our Christian lives. It is possible by looking at life from an entirely different perspective. The Perfect perspective is \_\_\_\_\_ the present in light of God's working in past, \_\_\_\_\_ in God's plan for the future.