

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)

¹² 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.