

A Different Point of View

One of the things that amazes me about the life of the apostle Paul is his ability to “keep it all together” when all around him seemed to be in turmoil. I mean, let's face it, life for Paul was not an easy or a pleasant one. Yet it seems as if he is always able to put everything in its proper place and see good in all of it.

In **Philippians 4**, Paul is catching the people of Philippi up on how things are going in his life and how he, as a Christian, has learned to accept everything as being God's will for him. In **verses 10-13**, he tells them that he has learned to **“be content whatever (his) circumstances.”** In need or with plenty, he says he has **“learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.”** The secret? **“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.”**

No matter what his situation, Paul could accept it. Not only could he accept it, he could always see something positive about it—something we have a difficult time doing. We can rejoice with those who rejoice and when things are going well for us, but we have a hard time weeping with those who weep and we always feel sorry for ourselves when things go wrong.

One of the most beautiful passages Paul has given us is located in **2 Corinthians 6**. Paul, beginning in **verse 4**, begins to describe the hardships he has faced and how people look at him. By the time he reaches **verse 10**, however, you'd think he was the richest man in the world. How many of us would accept hardships this way?

“...as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; through glory and dishonor; bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as imposters; known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”

Christianity causes us to look at things from a different perspective. Our attitude should be the same as Paul's:

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” (Romans 8:18)

We need to look at our problems as minor compared to the rewards we have been promised for managing those problems the way God wants us to.