

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S ATTITUDE AND PERSPECTIVE

1. WITH REGARD TO HIS FAITH AND WALK WITH GOD

Php 3:8-16 (NASB) More than that, **I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, 14 **I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

2. WITH REGARD TO HERITAGE, POSITION, AND VOCATION

Php 3:2-7 (NASB) 2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, 4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. 7 **But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.**

3. WITH REGARD TO CIRCUMSTANCES

Php 1:12-18 (NASB) 12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my **circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel**, 13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, 14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. 15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; 16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; 17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. 18 **What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.**

4. WITH REGARD TO FINANCES AND MATERIAL THINGS

Php 4:10-13 (NASB) 10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be **content** in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 **I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.**

5. WITH REGARD TO HEALTH

2 Co 12:7-10 (NASB) 7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me—to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, **I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.** 10 Therefore I am well **content** with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

Gal 4:12-14 (NASB) 12 I beg of you, brethren, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You have done me no wrong; 13 but you know **that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel** to you the first time; 14 and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself.

6. WITH REGARD TO PERSECUTION

Acts 16:22-34 (NASB) 22 And the crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them, and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; 24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison, and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 **But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God,** and the prisoners were listening to them; 26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s chains were unfastened.

2 Cor 4:16-18 (NASB) 16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. 17 **For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,** 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

7. IN THE FACE OF DEATH

Php 1:19-26 (NASB) 19 For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, **Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.** 21 For to me, **to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** 22 **But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me;** and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed

from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is **very much better**; 24 yet **to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake**. 25 And convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.