



# Men in the Word

“Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.”  
Jeremiah 15:16



## Faith Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Men's Ministry 2014

### Lesson 3

#### “A Heavenly Perspective”

As God does His good work in us, and we continue to grow spiritually, our perspective and the priorities of our life will be turned around. No longer will our main interest be our comfort or our glory, but God's purposes and His glory.

In this week's passage, Paul's attitude toward his circumstances serves as an example of this changed perspective to all believers. Though he finds himself in prison, a circumstance that many used against him, he didn't let it change what he was all about. For Paul wasn't so much concerned with his comfort or personal reputation, but on his calling from God; the “**furtherance of the Gospel.**” Is your world view an earthly one (temporal), or are you heavenly (eternally) minded? Do you get consumed by the difficult circumstances of your life, or can you say with Paul, “**my chains are in Christ**”? The tribulations of our life have a way of revealing where our priorities are. Let this week's passage reveal to you where your treasure is. If it's not Jesus Christ and His Gospel, ask God to change your heart so you will begin to see your circumstances as an opportunity to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Passage:** Philippians 1:12-18

**Key Scripture:** Philippians 1:12, 18

#### **Scripture: Philippians 1:12-13**

Rather than seeing himself as a prisoner of the palace guard and of Rome, Paul's perspective is that he is “**chained**” to Jesus Christ? What does this view of himself help him to do, even in such difficult circumstances in verse 12?

#### **Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:1-8**

In this passage, Paul takes earthly tribulation to the ultimate; death. What perspective does he give in verses 1-2 that would help us in **any** circumstance, if we could just make it our own? What will it require of us to be able to face even death this way (v.7)?

**Scripture: Philippians 1:14**

What affect did Paul's godly response to his situation have on those who followed him? What do you think it does to others, then, when they see us fall apart when we are hit with some trial?

**Scripture: Philippians 1:15-18**

What were the two very different motives behind others following Paul's example of boldly proclaiming the Gospel?

**Scripture: Philippians 1:18**

Did Paul care that some acted out of personal animosity toward him? What was Paul's priority in it all?

**Group Discussion – Personal Application**

Have you been more concerned with your worldly comfort, or what others think of you, than with the “**furtherance of the Gospel**”? Have you allowed your circumstances to overwhelm you and distract you from the true purpose of your life; to glorify Jesus Christ? Troubles in life are real, but how can we keep from letting them consume us so that our response to our circumstances can glorify God and inspire others? What changes can you make in your daily life to help you be more heavenly minded so that when trials come, you won't come unglued?

**Memory Verse**

**“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the futherance of the gospel”**

**Philippians 1:12**