

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Circumstances

"A man cannot directly choose his circumstances, but he can choose his thoughts, and so indirectly, yet surely, shape his circumstances." – James Allen, *As A Man Thinketh*

"Circumstances are beyond the control of man, but his conduct is in his own power." – Benjamin Disraeli

"It's not the situation . . . It's your reaction to the situation." – Bob Comblin

"What we are, and where we are, is God's providential arrangement . . . and the manly and wise way is to look your disadvantages in the face, and see what can be made of them." – Frederick W. Robertson

"Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside of them was superior to circumstances." – Anonymous

As Paul wrote the church at Philippi, he said, "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:11-13).

What is amazing is to realize that Paul's life was never a picture of wonderment and happiness. Did he not admit the misery he suffered? "Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren, in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness...." (2 Cor. 11:25-27). What? And this is the same guy who wrote of being content in whatever state he found himself?

Sometimes the circumstances in which we find ourselves is less than ideal. But you have a choice in how you face the situation. The key is remembering that what we face in this world is nothing in comparison to that which is to come. So often we let the circumstances of this world weigh us down to the point we forget about eternity with God.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen is eternal" (2 Cor. 4:17-18).