

Paul's Suffering

2 Corinthians 11:24-28

²⁴ From the Jews **five times I received forty *stripes*** minus one.

²⁵ **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;**

²⁶ ***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;***

²⁷ **in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness**

²⁸ **besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.**

Thoughts from Paul

2 Corinthians 4:8-18

⁸ **We are** hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; **we are** perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹ **persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed**

¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

¹⁵ For **all things are for your sakes**, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

¹⁶ Therefore **we do not lose heart**. Even though our **outward man is perishing**, yet the **inward man is being renewed day by day**.

¹⁷ For our **light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory**,

¹⁸ 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 are eternal**.



Perspective

Definition of Perspective

“The ability to perceive things in their actual interrelations or comparative importance”

(The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language)

- An attitude, feeling or point of view about something
- Assists us in understanding what is most important
- Latin root meaning “look through” or “perceive”

Physical Illustration



The first witness tells the officer that the person in the black car who was hit, turned in front of the person with the white truck



The second witness tells the officer that the person in the white truck ran the red light and the black car had the left turn arrow and was simply proceeding through the intersection

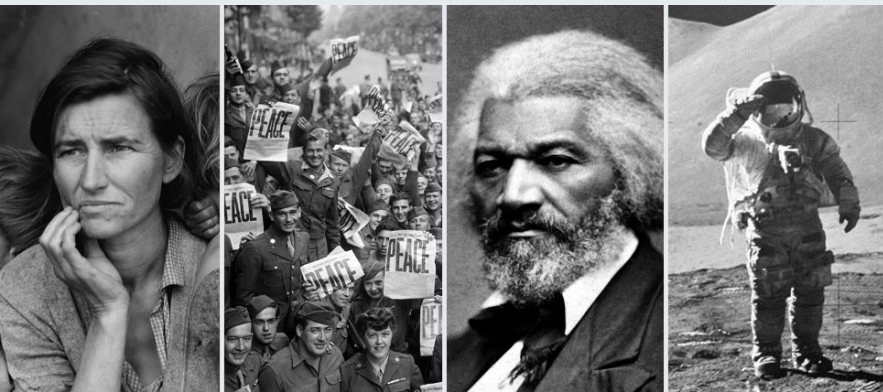


The person in the white truck tells the officer that something hit his windshield as they approached intersection and he did not see the light turn red

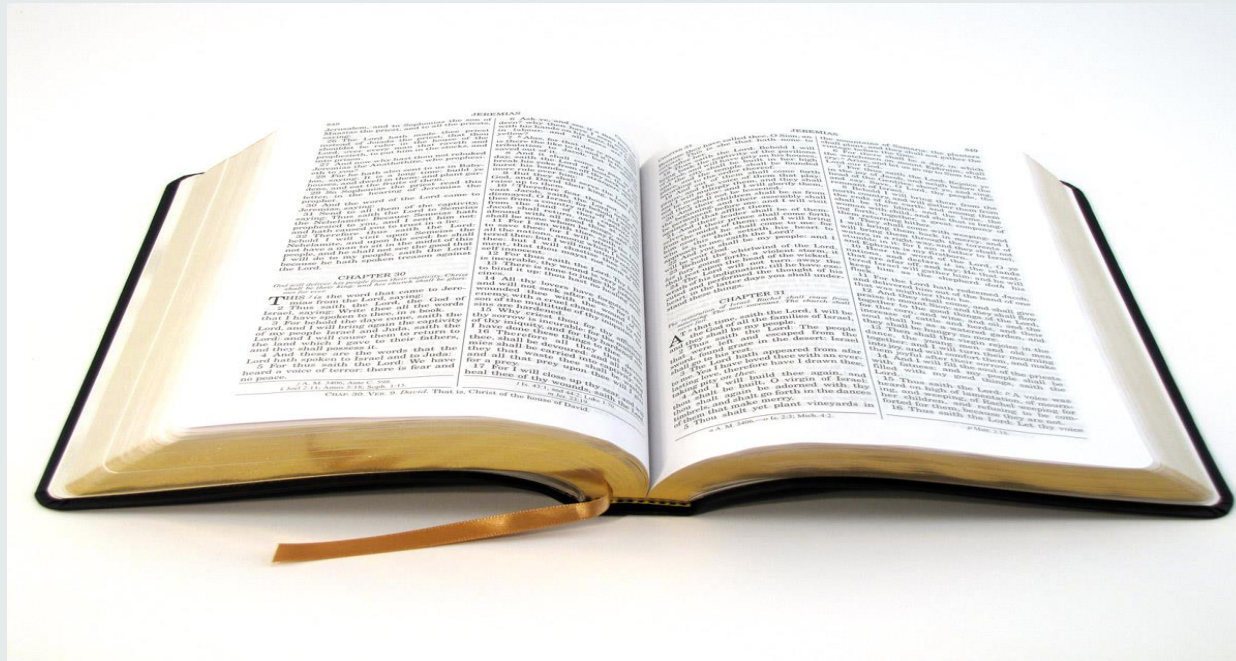
What Shapes our Perspective?



Source: gallica.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France



What Shapes our Perspective?



The Gospel

- If we have the right attitude toward the Truth:
 - It sharpens, shapes or overhauls our perspectives based on godly principles
 - It Teaches us what is proper and righteous from God's viewpoint

Perceive

Greek: *katanoeo* (kat-an-o-eh'-o) to **observe fully**:--behold, **consider, discover, perceive**”

Luke 12:22-31

²² Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on.

²³ Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing.

²⁴ **Consider** the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?

³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things.

³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you

➤ **Perspective:** We should fully trust that God will provide for us and our focus should be on seeking his kingdom

Perceive

Greek: **blepo** (blep'-o) **to see (literally or figuratively)**; by implication, **to know: be aware, behold, consider, (have) knowledge, look (on), perceive, see, be sure, tell, understand, wish, wot.**

Luke 6:41-42

⁴¹ And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not **perceive** the plank in your own eye?

⁴² Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that *is* in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that *is* in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye.

➤ **Perspective:** Do not be a hypocrite by focusing on others sins to the exclusion of our own. We must focus on removing our sin first

Perceive

Greek: **katalambano** (kat-al-am-ban'-o) **to take eagerly**, i.e. seize, possess, etc. (literally or figuratively): apprehend, attain, come upon, **comprehend**, find, obtain, **perceive**, (over-)take.

Acts 10:34-35

³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: "In truth I **perceive** that God shows no partiality.

³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

➤ **Perspective:** The gospel is for all, do not assume someone might not be accepted by God

Take Heed

Greek: **horao**, hor-ah'-o properly, to stare at, i.e. (by implication) **to discern clearly** (physically or mentally); by extension, **to attend to**; by Hebraism, to experience; passively, to appear: **behold, perceive, see, take heed**

Luke 12:13-21: Parable of the rich man who had many goods laid up for many years

¹⁵ And He said to them, "**Take heed** and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; **take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.**"

²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! **This night your soul will be required of you**; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

➤ **Perspective:** ²¹So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Take Heed

Greek: **Prosecho** (pros-ekh'-o) to hold the mind towards, i.e. **pay attention to, be cautious about**, apply oneself to, adhere to:--(give) attend(-ance, -ance at, -ance to, unto), **beware**, be given to, give (take) heed (to unto); **have regard**.

Matthew 6:1-4

¹ "**Take heed** that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

³ But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,

⁴ that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

➤ **Perspective:** Do not call attention to your charitable deeds. Do them in secret

Consider

Greek: **Noeo** (no-eh'-o) **to exercise the mind (observe)**, i.e. (figuratively) **to comprehend**, heed:--consider, **perceive**, think, **understand**.

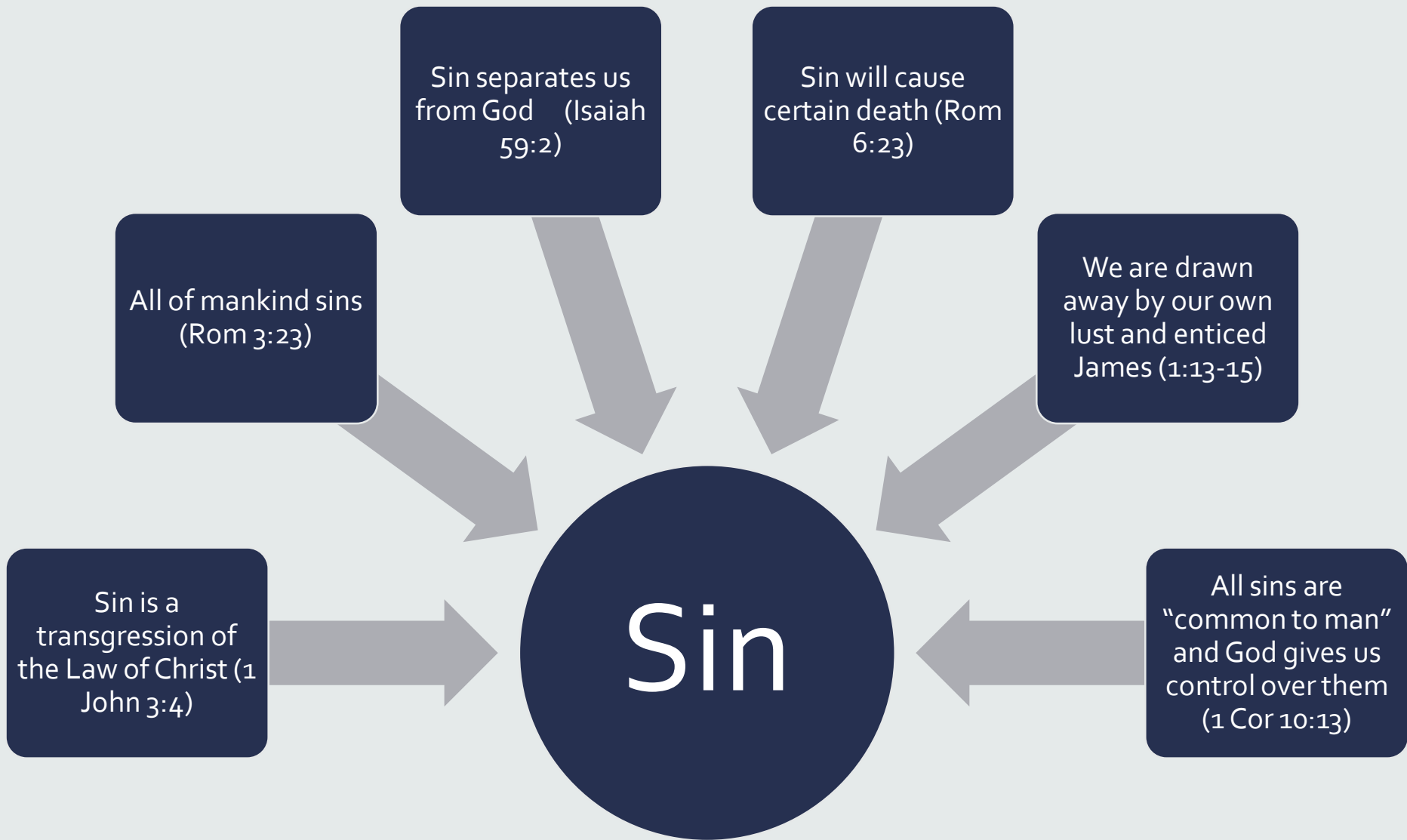
Romans 1:20

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being **understood** by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

➤ **Perspective:** The creation demonstrates there is a God so there is no excuse not to believe

God wants us to perceive, take heed,
consider, comprehend and understand
these principles

Sin



Perspective of Sin

- We have complete control over sin
- It is always our fault when we sin
- We are accountable for our sins and they will cause us to die spiritually
- God is “faithful” and has given us the incredible gift of being able to escape every temptation



**“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you”
James 4:7**

Treatment of Enemies

Some in the world will hate you because you are a Christian

- **1 John 3:13**

¹³ Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.

- **John 15:18-20**

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you.

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Treatment of Enemies

Love and pray for them

- **Matthew 5:43-48**

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, '*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*'

⁴⁴ **But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,**

⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

➤ **Perspective:** ⁴⁸ **Therefore you shall be perfect (spiritually complete), just as your Father in heaven is perfect.**

Treatment of Enemies

Take care of their needs

- **Romans 12:17-21**

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord.

²⁰ Therefore "*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*"

- **Perspective:** ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Companions

Evil companions and their influence

- **1 Corinthians 15:33-34**

³³ Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits"

³⁴ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.

- **Proverbs 14:7**

⁷ Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive *in him* the lips of knowledge.

➤ **Perspective:** Be aware of the influence of your companions and sever ties with them if their beliefs are not consistent with the truth

Trials and Tribulations

All godly people will suffer persecution and spiritual difficulties

- **2 Timothy 3:12-15**

¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- **Hebrews 12:3**

³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Trials and Tribulations

All godly people will suffer persecution and spiritual difficulties

▪ **1 Peter 1:3-9**

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ to an **inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away**, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ who are **kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you **greatly rejoice**, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

⁷ that the **genuineness of your faith**, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, **though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory** at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,

⁹ receiving the end of your faith--**the salvation of your souls**.

➤ **Perspective:** All who follow the Lord will suffer persecution. We should look to Jesus as our example and rejoice when we endure because we can take part in an inheritance that is guaranteed by the power of God

Key Applications

- We should fully trust that God will provide for us and our focus should be on seeking his kingdom
- Do not be a hypocrite by focusing on others sins to the exclusion of our own. We must focus on removing our sin first
- The gospel is for all, do not assume someone might not be accepted by God
- We should avoid laying up treasure for ourselves and be rich toward God
- Avoid calling attention to our charitable deeds. Do them in secret
- Observe the creation and realize it demonstrates there is a God. There is no excuse not to believe
- Strive to be perfect (spiritually complete), just like our Father in heaven
- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good
- Be aware of the influence of your companions and sever ties with them if their beliefs are not consistent with the truth
- Realize all who follow the Lord will suffer persecution. Look to Jesus as our example and rejoice in an inheritance guaranteed by the power of God

What Must I Do to be Saved?

Follow God's Plan of Salvation:

HEAR: Romans 10:17 – “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”

BELIEVE: Hebrews 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”

REPENT: Acts 17:30 – “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent”

CONFESS: Romans 10:10 “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation”

BE BAPTIZED: Mark 16:16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”

LIVE FAITHFULLY: Revelation 2:10b – “... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life”