



“THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE”

Series: “WINNING WAYS: What Champions Know and Do”, Part 4 of 9
Sunday, June 23, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16-18

Big Idea: When we see this life through the lens of eternity it changes the way we handle adversity, deal with people, and make decisions.

I. BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOD’S GREATEST CHAMPIONS.

2 Corinthians 4:17, “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.” {NASV}

2 Corinthians 11:23b-28, “I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”

II. GOD’S CHAMPIONS TEND TO GET BACK UP WHEN THEY GET KNOCKED DOWN.

2 Corinthians 4:8, “We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed.” {NASV}

III. GOD’S CHAMPIONS SEE ADVERSITY NOT AS A STUMBLING BLOCK, BUT AS A STEPPINGSTONE.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.”

IV. GOD'S CHAMPIONS FOCUS ON THE ETERNAL GOAL, AND LIVE EACH DAY IN LIGHT OF THAT.

2 Corinthians 4:18, So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.