

# Perceptions and Priorities

Steve Berger

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***Perceptions and Priorities — we set our priorities based on our perceptions. Paul gives us an amazingly condensed example of this in Philippians 3. Powerful considerations leaving 2018 and heading into 2019.***

## **Philippians 3:7-19**

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

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**Perception** — counted all things as loss and rubbish.

- successes and struggles can keep you back from God's priorities for your life!

**Priority** — the knowledge of Christ, to gain Christ, the righteousness of Christ, the power of His resurrection, the fellowship of His sufferings.

- Paul wants it all, greatest priority is to be conformed into likeness of Jesus.

**Perception** — hasn't attained or arrived, hasn't been perfected.

- Paul knows he has room for growth!

**Priority** — to press on, to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of him.

- Paul is chasing after, eagerly seizing, the very thing that Jesus eagerly seized him for... we're talking about our destinies here!

**Perception** — hasn't yet apprehended.

- with all Paul had accomplished so far... hadn't apprehended or seized it yet!

**Priority** — forget the past, reach for the future, press toward the goal of the prize, be an example.

- forget good and bad past, reach/strain/lean into your future, press toward the goal of the prize of the upward call of God on your life, be an example.

***QUESTION – How are you perceiving your life? Train wreck without hope? Success without need for change? Both dangerous! Perceptions set Priorities!***

**TRUTH**

**Yesterday** loss — good/bad, not getting back

**Today** isn't perfect — room for growth, I'm pressing toward, reaching for, leaning into, eagerly seizing my destiny.

**Tomorrow** — there's an eternal goal/prize awaiting me, proper Perceptions/Priorities secure the prize!