

Introduction:

“Vantage” = a) a position or situation more advantageous than an opponent’s. b) a position that allows a clear, broad view; understanding - i.e. **vantage point**.

Review:

- $C + P = E$
- Key #1 = _____
- Question #1 = _____?
- Key #2 = _____
- Question #2 = _____?

Key #3 = _____

Question #3 = Where’s My Hope?

A Third Lesson from the Life of Paul

Paul's View of the Future = Joy - v.18b (NASB)

. . .and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.

- **Reason #1 = His _____ is Certain** – vs. 19-20

¹⁹ For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

- **Reason #2 = His Source of _____ is Unshakable** – vs. 21-26

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³ But I am hardpressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; ²⁴ yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. ²⁵ And convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

A Summary of Paul's Source of Hope

1. Paul is joyful because he is _____ that he will be delivered "through" this time of personal testing and be found a faithful witness.
2. Paul's _____ rests in the supernatural enabling God will provide through the prayers of the Philippians and the empowering of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
3. Paul's major _____ during this time of testing are how his failure to be faithful might reflect (negatively) on the person of Christ.
4. Paul's _____ and goal in his testing is that Christ's reputation would be greatly enhanced; regardless of what means God would chose to accomplish this goal (life or death).

Application:

1. Personal situation you need to see from an eternal vantage point =

2. Corporate situation we need to see from an eternal vantage point =

Discussion Questions:

1. What is a vantage point? How does our vantage point impact our perspective?
2. How did an **eternal vantage** point impact Paul's perspective, even amidst extreme adversity?
3. What "resources" (v. 19-20) gave Paul such hope and confidence? What's the difference between being delivered "Out of" our circumstances and being delivered "through" them? Which of these does God promise us?
4. Discuss verse 21. How does Paul's hope in Christ by life or death provide a basis for unshakable joy?
5. Where is your hope?