

## Introduction: Understanding Expectations

- A Personal Experience
- A Practical Picture
- A Principle to Remember

### Review: C + P = E

- Focus = Upward/Outward, Not Inward!
- Purpose = God, "Use" My Adversity!
- Hope = Look Through An Eternal Perspective

Key #4 = \_\_\_\_\_

Question #4 = What Are My Expectations?

## A Final Lesson from the Life of Paul = “Clear Expectations”

- **What Does God Expect From Us? = Consistent Conduct**

*Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. (vs. 27-28)*

- **What Can We Expect From God In A Fallen World? = 2 Gifts**

*For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me. (vs. 29-30)*

- Gift #1 = To \_\_\_\_\_ on Him.
- Gift #2 = To \_\_\_\_\_ for Him.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time in your life when your experience varied greatly from your expectations. What was the result?
  
2. Discuss what God expects from us. How does Paul “model” this “consistent conduct” throughout chapter 1 of Philippians?
  
3. Under adverse circumstances are you most tempted to a) “give up” or b) “give out” or c) “shrink back?”
  
4. Discuss and contrast the 2 gifts God gives us (v. 29-30). How does this shape our expectations?
  - What new insight did you gain concerning suffering?
  
  - How could this help your perspective in your current situation?