

PERSPECTIVE

PERSPECTIVE

- In Christ, we are **blessed**, even while we are **stressed**, but the **best** is yet to come.

PERSPECTIVE

- Blessed are the (description of our lives) for (promise of what's to come).

PERSPECTIVE - *BLESSED*

- The beatitudes describe the **supreme happiness**, and the **current behavior**, and the **guaranteed future** of a real Christian.

PERSPECTIVE

- *Meekness: strength coupled with a selfless nonassertiveness produces a gentle person who can patiently endure much to bring about God's purposes for His people.*

PERSPECTIVE

- *Meekness*: strength coupled with a selfless **nonassertiveness** produces a **gentle** person who can **patiently** endure much to bring about God's purposes for His people.
- Proverbs 31:9 Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy.

PERSPECTIVE

- *Meekness*: strength coupled with a selfless **nonassertiveness** produces a **gentle** person who can **patiently** endure much to bring about God's purposes for His people.
- Proverbs 31:9 Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy.
- Isaiah 1:16-17 ¹⁶ "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, ¹⁷ Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless; Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.

PERSPECTIVE

- *Meekness*: strength coupled with a selfless **nonassertiveness** produces a **gentle** person who can **patiently** endure much to bring about God's purposes for His people.
- Proverbs 31:9 Speak up, judge righteously, and defend the cause of the oppressed and needy.
- Isaiah 1:16-17 ¹⁶ "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, ¹⁷ Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless; Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow.
- Psalm 82:3-4 ³ Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. ⁴ Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

PERSPECTIVE - *STRESSED*

- Will everything in your life, here and now, always be great, comfortable, and **easy**? No.

PERSPECTIVE - STRESSED

- Will everything in your life, here and now, always be great, comfortable, and easy? No.
- Acts 14:21-22 ²¹ And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

PERSPECTIVE - STRESSED

- Will everything in your life, here and now, always be great, comfortable, and easy? No.
- Acts 14:21-22 ²¹ And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
- John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first
-

PERSPECTIVE - STRESSED

- Will everything in your life, here and now, always be great, comfortable, and easy? No.
- Acts 14:21-22 ²¹ And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
- John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first
- John 15:20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

PERSPECTIVE - STRESSED

- Will everything in your life, here and now, always be great, comfortable, and easy? No.
- Acts 14:21-22 ²¹ And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
- John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first
- John 15:20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.
- John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

PERSPECTIVE - STRESSED

- Will everything in your life, here and now, always be great, comfortable, and easy? No.
- Acts 14:21-22 ²¹ And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
- John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first
- John 15:20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.
- John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- 2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

PERSPECTIVE - STRESSED

- Will everything in your life, here and now, always be great, comfortable, and easy? No.
- Acts 14:21-22 ²¹ And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."
- John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first
- John 15:20 Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.
- John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."
- 2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution
- Revelation 1:9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

PERSPECTIVE

- Matthew 5:10-12 Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

PERSPECTIVE

- In more than **40** nations around the world today Christians are being **persecuted** for their faith.

Areas of the world where Christians face persecution include:

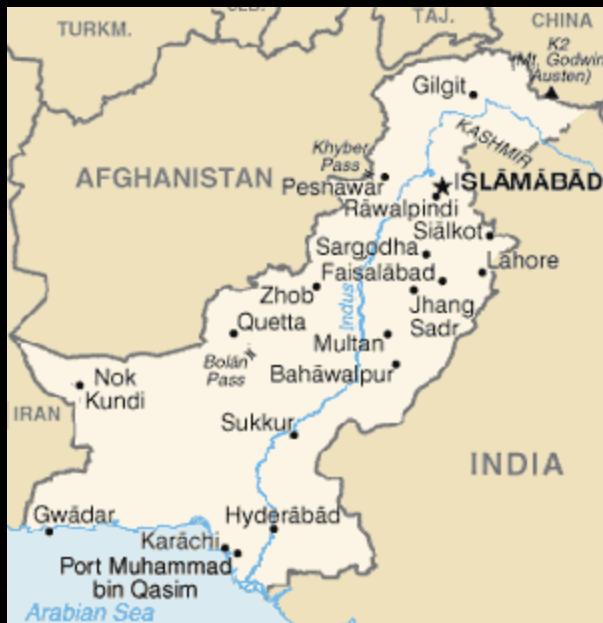
Afghanistan	Egypt	Libya	Somalia
Algeria	Eritrea	Malaysia	Sri Lanka
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Maldives	Sudan
Bangladesh	Gaza and the West Bank	Mindanao, Philippines	Syria
Belarus	India	Mauritania	Tajikistan
Bhutan	Indonesia	Morocco	Tibet (China)
Brunei	Iran	Nepal	Tunisia
Burma (Myanmar)	Iraq	Nigeria	Turkey
Chiapas, Mexico	Jordan	North Korea	Turkmenistan
China	Kuwait	Oman	United Arab Emirates
Colombia	Kyrgyzstan	Pakistan	Uzbekistan
Comoros	Laos	Qatar	Vietnam
Cuba	Lebanon	Saudi Arabia	Yemen

Asia Bibi

Location: **Pakistan**

Arrested: **June 2009**

Days Imprisoned: **838**



Youcef Nadarkhani

Location: Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Arrested: October 2009

Days Imprisoned: 723



PERSPECTIVE

- There is a paradox of **blessedness** now in the midst of **extreme suffering**, while waiting for the **fulfillment of God's promises**.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

Based on God's grace and Jesus sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I can say:

- In Christ, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

Based on God's grace and Jesus sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I can say:

- In Christ, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
- In Christ, I will be comforted from my sufferings.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

Based on God's grace and Jesus sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I can say:

- In Christ, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
- In Christ, I will be comforted from my sufferings.
- In Christ, I will inherit the earth and enjoy abundant prosperity.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

Based on God's grace and Jesus sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I can say:

- In Christ, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
- In Christ, I will be comforted from my sufferings.
- In Christ, I will inherit the earth and enjoy abundant prosperity.
- In Christ, I will be satisfied in my desire for righteousness.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

Based on God's grace and Jesus sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I can say:

- In Christ, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
- In Christ, I will be comforted from my sufferings.
- In Christ, I will inherit the earth and enjoy abundant prosperity.
- In Christ, I will be satisfied in my desire for righteousness.
- In Christ, I will receive mercy, compassion, forgiveness of sins and God's anger will not be held against me.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

Based on God's grace and Jesus sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I can say:

- In Christ, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
- In Christ, I will be comforted from my sufferings.
- In Christ, I will inherit the earth and enjoy abundant prosperity.
- In Christ, I will be satisfied in my desire for righteousness.
- In Christ, I will receive mercy, compassion, forgiveness of sins and God's anger will not be held against me.
- In Christ, I will see God.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

Based on God's grace and Jesus sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I can say:

- In Christ, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
- In Christ, I will be comforted from my sufferings.
- In Christ, I will inherit the earth and enjoy abundant prosperity.
- In Christ, I will be satisfied in my desire for righteousness.
- In Christ, I will receive mercy, compassion, forgiveness of sins and God's anger will not be held against me.
- In Christ, I will see God.
- In Christ, I will be called a child of God, reconciled to Him and no longer an enemy.

PERSPECTIVE - *BEST*

- It is the reality of being a member of the **kingdom of heaven**, and the **hope** of all that you will enjoy one day in the **future** that gives you the **deep happiness** that you can have **today**.

Based on God's grace and Jesus sacrifice and the gift of the Holy Spirit, I can say:

- In Christ, I am a citizen of the kingdom of heaven.
- In Christ, I will be comforted from my sufferings.
- In Christ, I will inherit the earth and enjoy abundant prosperity.
- In Christ, I will be satisfied in my desire for righteousness.
- In Christ, I will receive mercy, compassion, forgiveness of sins and God's anger will not be held against me.
- In Christ, I will see God.
- In Christ, I will be called a child of God, reconciled to Him and no longer an enemy.
- In Christ, I will receive a great reward in heaven.

PERSPECTIVE

- ^{NIV} Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

PERSPECTIVE

- ^{NIV} Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- What do you have right now?

Freedom from the burden of sin.

- **Romans 6:18** ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

PERSPECTIVE

- ^{NIV} Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- What do you have right now?

Freedom from the burden of sin.

- **Romans 6:18** ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Freedom from working for salvation.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. **Ephesians 3:12** In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

PERSPECTIVE

- **NIV Ephesians 1:3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- What do you have right now?

Freedom from the burden of sin.

- **Romans 6:18** ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Freedom from working for salvation.

- **Ephesians 2:8-9** ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. **Ephesians 3:12** In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Freedom from fear of death.

- **Hebrews 2:14-15** by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil-- ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.