



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Have you heard this line before? *"Well, from where I'm standing, it seems like..."* It's not at all unusual to find ourselves in conversation with others about something that is viewed differently, by equally credible parties. Often, their inability to agree is not based on that which is fixed and unmoving, but on how they see that rock-solid thing, from their perspective.

Perspective is *"a particular attitude toward or way of regarding something. It is a true understanding of the relative importance of things; a sense of proportion"* (credit Webster).

I've had a sense of perspective for the last week, as the firefights between two political camps, mid-primary season, has gone from "blazing pulpits" to "I 'misspoke' for the first time in 12 years." If you're living on the battlefield's front-lines (right now, that's the State of Pennsylvania, and anywhere with a TV), it's all you can hear or think, thanks to the constant "updates" from web and wired media sources. Perspective? I've enjoyed it... because I'm in Ireland, an ocean away from the "bombing campaigns." Over here, the "news from the front" has been pretty mellow; they're not buried in the baloney that we Americans are waking to each morning. *I wonder if we could all live offshore until November, and save our sanity...*



Perspective is a valuable thing, it seems to me. It allows you to gain *"a true understanding of the relative importance of things."* Is the American presidential election important? Sure it is! But, is it the most important thing for you to give your limited conscious attention, for the next six months? Hardly! You'll have a decision to make, and it will boil down to two names on a ballot. You'll be ready to make that call on November 4th; don't allow the media malarky to captivate your capacities until then! You know better!

While most of our peers are distracted and wasting their capacities, it would be great to put our eternal perspectives into play and invest our capacities in things that really matter. Paul knew how to live above the static and to keep his perspectives keenly tuned to the underlying truths that don't change with tonight's lead on the 11:00 report.

Listen to his input: *"...we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord."*

We live by faith, not by sight... So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience... For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:6-21)

We won't know who will be our four-year President until November, but I already know who has been appointed to be the lifetime Ambassador of the King of Kings: **YOU!** Paul didn't make that claim solely for himself;

he said it was *our* assignment: "...we are therefore Christ's ambassadors." The American President can make *temporary* impact, but the Ambassadors of Heaven make *eternal* impact every time they broker a peace treaty between the Lord of Heaven and another person for whom the Lamb of God became sin...

Perspective is a powerful thing. If my presidential responsibility is a *decision*, I'll make it, but I won't be consumed by it. If my ambassadorial responsibility is a *dedication*, it will define my life. *Does it define yours?*

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