

A More Excellent Thing

The Power of Christ in Your Circumstances

- **Introduction**

- The God of your circumstances is a popular belief in Christianity.
- God is seen as the divine dispenser of all your wants and desires.
 - This has birthed ideas such as “prosperity theology”
 - This all stems from selfishly thinking that God wants you to be happy and at ease in life.
 - Often accompanying this idea is that success in your circumstances will bring God glory.
- Where do these ideas come from? (**Matt 21:18-22; Jer 29:10-11**)
- What do both passages have in common? They are spoken to Israel under God’s covenant, under the law. (**Deu 11:26-27; Deu 29:1-9**)

- **God’s Change in Operation**

- God is not working through Israel and their Covenants at this present time. He is working through something else. (**Eph 3:1-10; 2 Cor 5:16-17**)
- God cares about what is going on in your mind and there is now a new way of thinking and operating under grace (**Rom 12:1-2; 2 Cor 5:4-5; Rom 6:14**)
- Paul’s life and ministry was riddled with suffering (**2 Cor 11:24-27**)
 - God denied intervention in Paul’s Circumstances (**2 Cor 12:6-10**)
- The dilemma with a circumstantial God. Physical blessings and interventions are seen with your eyes. Do we walk by sight? (**2 Cor 5:7; Rom 10:16-17**)

- **A More Excellent Thing**

- Our admonition is to approve those things that are excellent (**Php 1:10-11**)
- What can be more excellent than physical blessing? (**Eph 1:3**)
 - Being strengthened by Christ in your inner man (**Eph 3:14-19**)
 - The power of the gospel and the cross of Christ (**Rom 1:16; 1 Cor**

1:18 -> 1 Cor 2:1-5)

- This strength and power in the gospel of Christ can stablish you (**Rom 16:25**)
- This power will help you stand strong amid a sin cursed world (**Php 4:10-13; Eph 6:10-12**)
- Even though we suffer there is a greater glory than your circumstances (**Rom 8:18**)
- God's grace is able to keep you at peace despite your circumstances (**Php 4:5-7**)
- The knowledge of Christ according to the revelation of the mystery excels over all (**2 Cor 4:6-18; Php 3:8-9**)