**Notes**

****May 7, 2017**



**Relief factor**

Part 3

‘The Benefits Seeing Things God’s Way”

Welcome

**Relief Factor - Part 3**

*The Benefits of Seeing things God’s Way*

**Intro:**  In today’ s information age, who controls the flow of information?

**The two trees in the garden**Some background

**Genesis 2:9**

Tree of life – revelation knowledge

Tree of knowledge of Good and evil – human knowledge.

Today, our adversary works through people to ‘blind’ the **minds** of unbelieving people

**2 Corinthians 4:4**

The unbelieving mind of man ‘sees’ things differently from what God sees.

**Isaiah 55:8-9:** God’s ways and thoughts are higher than ours.

**The apostle Paul wins the mind game**

*While still in prison for his faith he was able to write:*

**Philippians 3:13**

In reaching forward to reach his goal, Paul had to ‘forget’ & ‘forgive

God helped remove the ‘sting’ of the memory from Paul, and He can do the same for you.

It’s more about not ‘factoring into the relationship’ those bad things that happened.

Forgiveness is the key to Paul’s advancement… and ours too.

**God’s forgiveness towards undeserving people**

All were able to continue in the faith because God, through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, … **Hebrews 8:12**

**We move towards what we see or gaze at.**

Paul in prison was faced with a choice:

 Gaze at the dark cold walls (his circumstances)

Or…

 Gaze into the future of (his calling) in Christ

He chose to have his vision of Christ restored as his central focus.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

Unhindered ‘face to face’ encounters change us:

Paul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus,

His previous religiosity only led him further from God’s heart.

Today, being ‘son conscious’ Vs ‘sin conscious’ makes all the difference.

His **‘presence’** transforms us, not determined efforts to **‘perform’** better.

As Paul sat in prison, chose to partake of the ‘fresh bread from heaven’ which sustained and strengthened him to keep looking forward in hope.

*‘Give us this day our daily bread’* – Matthew 6:11

The **problem** before Jesus came:

Animal blood sacrifices didn’t get to core: they only ‘covered’

***Hebrews 10:1-3***

The **solution** when Jesus came:

His perfect blood perfectly ‘cleansed’ us from sin (dead works).

**Hebrews 9:14**

**Final Take Away & Communion**

Table Talk

Paul had been washed clean and was now ‘conscious of the son’ rather than his past sin.

**Jeremiah 2:22(NIV)**