

The Parchment

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When Life Feels Out of Control

Last Sunday I shared a message from 1 Cor. 7 titled “Bloom Where You’re Planted” about approaching changes that we want to initiate. While we can seek to change our external circumstances or environment, we learned rather to focus on personal character change, heart attitude, and desire to follow God’s commands (v.19) in our current situations. We should not fall into the trap that if only we had a better job, relationship, financial situation, etc. then we could follow God.

In essence this approach seeks to accept those aspects of life we cannot control, while taking personal responsibility for the areas we can control. *But how well do we handle the many potentially unfortunate circumstances that we will inevitably face?* The fact is that the deep economic recession can hurt our chance at staying employed or destroy our nest eggs; that relationships can falter bringing about great pain and emotional hurt; that offices can get reorganized; that classes or school programs can become impacted or closed down; or that bosses can be unreasonable. *What should we do when uncontrollable circumstances such as these bear down on us personally?*

In the most maddening of situations we are often left with only our response. We may not see the deeper lessons or learning in the midst of turmoil. In the worst hours of my strep infection and ensuing allergic rash I told Lori I felt like I did in 2005 when psoriasis covered 95% of my skin: I could only cry out to God. That’s what the psalmist did as well: *Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe* (Psalm 61:1-3).

Are you in what seems like an impossible situation? For sure there are some personal lessons to be learned there. But when we feel life is out of control, we first can call out to God who is sovereign—our rock, refuge and strong tower—and trust He is in control.