

2 Cor. 6 The Message Bible “People are watching us as we stay at our post, alertly, unswervingly...in hard times, tough times, bad times; when we’re beaten up, jailed, and mobbed; working hard, working late, working without eating; with pure heart, clear head, steady hand; in gentleness, holiness, and honest love; when we’re telling the truth, and when God’s showing His power; when we’re doing our best setting things right; when we’re praised, and when we’re blamed; slandered, and honored; true to our word, though distrusted; ignored by the world, but recognized by God; terrifically alive, though rumored to be dead; beaten within an inch of our lives, but refusing to die; immersed in tears, yet always filled with deep joy; living on handouts, yet enriching many; having nothing, having it all.

Dear, dear Corinthians, I can’t tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn’t fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren’t small, but you’re living them in a small way. I’m speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!”

We really have this life backwards. Our thinking is directly opposed to the thinking of our Lord. What we call prosperity is light years from its Biblical definition. Still, somehow, it never sinks into the block between our shoulders that it would be wise to consider the Lord’s definitions, including prosperity, as our guidelines for life. They might make us truly prosperous.

I remember a season in my life before I came to the Lord. I was so doped up, full of lusts and booze, that I couldn’t think straight. My confusion was apparent by the extremely ignorant decisions that I made. At the time, though, I thought I had it all together. Everything that I did seemed logical, and actually quite wise, in my blinded eyes. After my head was cleared by the Lord, I could see how far my life was from any semblance of reason. I couldn’t believe how far I had migrated from the straight road.

That is the way the Lord must see us when we minimize the wonders done for us and to us because of Jesus. Our desires to remain anywhere near our old life must look so foolish to Him. From His perspective, knowing what is available to us, our carnal decisions and desires must appear as foggy thinking. No wonder He is continually goading us to draw closer to Him to receive His kind of wealth.

Turn my heart toward home, Lord – Jim Corbett