

# Phil 1:12-19

*“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear. It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,”*

# 1. My Circumstances in Perspective

- 'now I want you to know....'
- learn that there are varying views on what Paul is facing
- ideas about when bad things happen to good people
  - assume – sin in life, punishment, bad choices & consequences
    - David – hunted by Saul
    - Job – lost family & health
    - Christ – betrayed and crucified
    - Disciples – martyred
- I want you to know – God is at work using this situation

a) Clear to those around me – in chains for Gospel

- guards change every 6 hours – 4 per day
- officials in Roman Court – studying for case
- through this – gospel of Jesus going out

b) Granted Others Courage and Boldness

- ‘confident in the Lord’ – Paul’s example is giving others courage – God is able in even this
- ‘dare to proclaim gospel without fear’ – gaining the courage to speak truth without fear
- seeing things in perspective – speaking out

## 2. Response to What Others are Saying

- 'it is true some .....

- two camps evident

  - some enticing people away from supporting Paul

  - trying to gain more followers

  - saying – he must have done something wrong

  - others supporting Paul – defending him

- a) acknowledges the controversy

  - yep – maybe some are using this situation for self

  - yep – some are rising to my defense

## b) Paul Comments – So What

- not about me or my reputation
- not a doctrinal issue worth addressing
- quit guessing about motives and methods
- \* Gospel is what matters – God is faithful, leave motives to him – what is important – Gospel
- gives them freedom to simply not debate the why or methods – keep focus on important

### 3. Rejoice in God's Work Being Done

- I rejoice, and will continue to rejoice
- To understand His Joy – understand his motivation
  - when we strive towards something – endure training
  - Athlete – training
  - Student – studying, exams
  - Parent – sleep, discipline, expense
  - Businessman – sales, inventory, recession
- worth it when we have a clear view of the outcome

- Heb. 12:2-3 *“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”*

- ‘for the joy set before him...’ Jesus motivation

- Paul had a clear view of something:

a) fulfilling God’s Purpose

- go, make disciples, give the gospel

- facing trials question not ‘why me’ but what is God’s purpose in this situation

- what can I do where I find myself to reflect Christ, advance the gospel, encourage others – the outcome is up to him

b) Exalting Christ above all else

- not about my reputation, my comfort, my future
- I rejoice when Christ exalted



## So What

### 1. See Your Circumstances in Perspective

- maybe not what you envisioned
- are you ready to be a witness where you are?
- God can use you where you are planted today

### 2. Don't be Distracted

- by what others are saying or doing
- by questioning others motives and methods

### 3. Get a Clear View of the End Game

- find joy in seeing what's worth it