

The Book of Philippians - Lesson 3

Philippians 1:12-20 – Christ is Proclaimed!

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

1. Suffering is used by God to bring about His purposes

Grumbling vs. Groaning!

- the awareness of the Gospel among his Roman captors
- a new boldness experienced by his fellow workers in the preaching of the gospel

2. God uses suffering to bring about growth and maturity.

James 1:2-4

- **Humility**
- **Joy**

Happiness vs. Joy

3. Suffering prepares us for glory

1 Corinthians 2:9

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Questions to ponder

1. Are you able to see God's hand and purpose in them, beyond the immediate?
2. How is God shaping you and your character into the image of Christ?
3. How do these times of pain or frustration cause you to look to the future and Christ's return?

Next week: Philippians 1:21-30