

“Gospel Focused” **Philippians 1:12-18a**

It is in the darkness that the gospel shines the brightest!

This morning, we see the Apostle Paul gospel focused in the midst of rough circumstances. He desires for the church at Philippi to know that what all has happened to him has really served in the advancement of the gospel and Christ Jesus being preached. In that, he rejoices and so should we. We must learn to have a gospel focus if we will ever make much of Christ in our short lives. May we all seek to live for the glory of God through the proclamation of the gospel!

In our text we see three things that Paul wants the church to know about his current circumstances.

1. The Real Reason for Paul’s Imprisonment vs.12 *“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”*

- **The advancement of the gospel is the reason for Paul’s chains.**

2. The Results of Paul’s Imprisonment vs. 13-14

a. The gospel has become known from the insider to outsiders! vs.13a *“so that it has become known”*

- **The gospel became known in the evangelization of unbelievers!** vs.13b *“throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.”*

- **The gospel became known in the edification of believers which led to greater evangelism!** vs.14 *“And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear”*

b. Christ Jesus is proclaimed is the main thing! vs.15-17 *“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.*

- *By those who were envious of Paul and his ministry.*
- *By those who loved Paul.*

3. The Response of Paul’s Imprisonment vs. 18 *“What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.”*

Application:

1. What is your main goal in this life?
2. How do unforeseen hard circumstances affect you and the goal?
3. How are you allowing the gospel to shape your affections? What role does God’s Word play into this?
4. What role does biblical community (the church) have in your life as you seek to make Jesus known?