

Sermon: **It's All for the Fame of Christ (Philippians 1:12-20)**

Date: **February 21, 2016**

The apostle Paul wrote the letter of Philippians while he was imprisoned in Rome. Acts 28 tells us that he was imprisoned for 2 years and was constantly guarded by a soldier from the imperial guard. He wrote this letter from prison to encourage the church in Philippi that God was using his imprisonment for the advancement of the gospel. He wanted them to know that they had reason to be thankful and even to rejoice over Paul's situation. God in his providence used Paul's imprisonment to spread the gospel throughout the whole imperial guard and in turn, throughout Rome. There are now even believers in Caesar's household (Philippians 4:22) as a result of this gospel progress. In this week's study, we're going to see how God sovereignly uses the highs and lows of life for the sake of the gospel. Wherever God has us and whatever comes our way, we must remember that it's all for the fame of Jesus Christ.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Philippians 1:12-20 and ensure that you have listened to the sermon.
 - a. In verses 12-14, rather than speaking about the effect that his prison sentence is having on him, he instead speaks to the effect it is having on the gospel. Why does he do this?
 - b. In what ways has Paul's imprisonment served to advance the gospel?
 - c. Verse 14 tells us that many Christians in Rome are more bold to speak the Word of God because of Paul's witness in prison. Why do you think the faithfulness of Christians who endure persecution encourages us in our own faith?
 - d. What does Paul's situation teach us about the relationship concerning suffering, the gospel, and the providence of God?
 - e. In verses 15-18, why does Paul say that we have reason to rejoice even when people preach Christ with insincere motives?
 - f. In verse 19, what "deliverance" is Paul referring to and why is this significant?

- g. Where is Paul's hope in the midst of his trial and why is his joy unfading?
2. Read the rest of Philippians 1 (verses 21-30) and answer the questions below.
- a. According to verses 21-26, why is Paul torn between living and dying?

 - b. What do verses 29-30 teach us about suffering?

Group Discussion Questions

- 1. All of us will have to endure suffering at times. How can God use our suffering for the sake of the gospel? Why is it important that we do not suffer as those who have no hope?
- 2. If we truly believe that God has placed us where we are in life for the defense of the gospel, how should this impact how we live?
- 3. Why should we rejoice every time the gospel is preached? What can we do to prevent feelings of apathy when we hear the gospel?
- 4. The power to save is in the message, not the messenger. How does knowing this give us confidence and boldness when we share our faith?
- 5. How does remembering that God will ultimately deliver us from all trials motivate us to honor Christ now and always?

Accountability Questions

Is there something in your life that you are more excited about than the glory of Jesus Christ?