



Lesson Three: The Strange Advance of the Gospel

Philippians 1:12-18a

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¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

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.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we tend to respond to difficult circumstances?
(Share some of the hard situations you've faced or are facing.)
2. What is Paul's perspective in his difficulty?
3. How does God transform a man to have such a different perspective?
(Consider Acts 20:24 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.)
4. How does a Christ-centered perspective prepare us for trials and encourage other believers around us?
5. Think of a specific difficult circumstance in your own life.
How could the Lord use this situation to advance the gospel?
6. To what do you “index” your joy? Why does it matter?
7. What has Jesus done so that we might live this kind of life in Him?



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