

Philippians 1:12-18a

The Gospel Amidst One's Circumstances

1. Gospel is Complete vs. 12

Paul understood that his circumstances will not negatively impact the gospel of Jesus Christ, as the gospel message is complete in itself, as God's salvation plan for the world has already been fulfilled.

The gospel is complete and has the power to transform. The circumstances of this world will not change this reality.

Questions:

- Do our actions reflect this truth? Or do we treat the gospel as a very fragile message?

"The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and the lion will defend itself." - Charles Spurgeon

2. Gospel Advancement vs. 12-14

Paul witnessed his imprisonment and impending trial as an advancement of the gospel.

- The whole palace guard now has heard the gospel and has seen Paul has no ordinary prisoner.
- Fellow believers' who are unified with Paul, have observed Paul's example and have grown in confidence in sharing their faith even when circumstances become difficult.

Difficult circumstances will cause affliction, but God triumphs over suffering by using it as a tool to advance the gospel.

- Living out one's faith in the present circumstance
- Inspiring others by our example; to share and live out our faith even during those difficult times.

Questions:

- How can we remember this truth, God used Paul's imprisonment to work together for good, when we face difficulties in our own lives? (Romans 8:28)

- How can we use our own troubles to encourage other believers to live out and share their faith?

3. Gospel Perspective vs.15-18a

Even when fellow believers were opposed to him and were sharing the gospel with the wrong reasons, Paul was still able to rejoice; the gospel was still making an impact through selfish motives.

The most important perspective, whether or not the gospel is making an impact. If this is our perspective, we will have more reason to rejoice than to complain.

Questions:

- What selfish motivation could possibly push someone to share the gospel?
- What should be our motive for sharing the gospel?
- What steps does one need to take to have the right perspective when facing difficult times; one of rejoicing instead of complaining?
- Are you regularly sharing the gospel? When was the last time you shared with someone?
- Who has God placed in your heart to share the gospel with them? Are you praying for them regularly?