

Series: Philippians: That We May Know Him II

Text: Philippians 1:12-18a

HI: The gospel will advance when Christ is proclaimed.

Title: *Marching Orders*

Hook: Marching orders

Date: 9.17.23

Purpose: To encourage Christ's people with the joy of the gospel, and to exhort them to proclaim it.

FCF: Like those receiving this letter, the presence of persecution and division can discourage us on the mission of the gospel. God's grace is clearly seen in the response of both Paul and those courageously following his example, the gospel is proclaimed in great joy.

COR: We have all had our wounds salted by those who had it out for us. In this life of suffering, when people kick us when we are down our tendency is to kick back or completely check out. This short passage in this letter shows Paul doing neither of those—instead he is rejoicing. How is that real?

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Christ proclaimed advances the gospel, because Jesus works to save wherever and whenever he is proclaimed.

Apologetic: Argument from experience: Joy and hope through persecution and division makes no logical sense to the natural man. Argument from history: The spread of the gospel through centuries of church suffering reveals both the power and truth of the gospel of Jesus.

Text Tone: Exhort and Encourage

Preaching Voice: Priestly (teaching)

Form: Deductive

Call to Worship: As we gather today, we rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ, let's worship him together.

Benediction: Wherever Christ has placed you this week, proclaim him there, walk in the grace of Jesus for the glory of God.

Outline:

I. The power of the gospel builds confidence. (12-14)

A. Persecution for Christ spreads the gospel. (12-13)

B. Suffering for Jesus stirs the saints. (14)

II. The truth of Christ fuels joy. (15-18a)

A. There are divisions within the Church. (15-18a)

B. There is unity in the message of Christ. (15-18a)

Main Idea:

Subject: How has the gospel advanced through Paul's imprisonment?

Complement: Christ has been proclaimed.

Exegetical Idea: The gospel has advanced through Paul's imprisonment because Christ has been proclaimed.

Theological Idea: Christ proclamation leads to gospel advancement.

Homiletical Idea: The gospel will advance when Christ is proclaimed.

Introduction:

Marching orders: "instruction from a superior officer for troops to depart."

And today, we have a short passage from a joyful letter that serves as marching orders for you and me as we scatter from here into our community this week. Let's get at it. READ Philippians 1:12-18a

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.

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

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Persecution for Christ □ Proclamation of Christ

RE-READ Philippians 1:12-14

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I. The power of the gospel builds confidence. (12-14)

Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. Phil 4:21-22

The suffering secret:

- 1) Perspective
- 2) Mission
- 3) Community

Suffering sideways:

- 1) Lose perspective
- 2) Abandon mission
- 3) Embrace isolation

RE-READ Philippians 1:15-18a

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II. The truth of Christ fuels joy. (15-18a)

"...he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." Acts 9:15-16

v. 16: "defense" – apologia (apologetics) – The act of making a defense.

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it

with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:15-17

Pretense: falsely alleged motive

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