

Lesson 2, PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18

Paul's letter to his beloved Philippian church does not soft soak his trials while under arrest. Yet, even while being chained to a palace guard, he sees the bright side. It is as if he has eternal glasses to see beyond this world into the next. This is such a lesson for us during times of trials.

1. What did Jesus say about suffering in John 16:33? What does Romans 5:1-5 say? Looking back at your life, can you see how times of trials have grown your faith?
2. After reading verse 14, can you think of a time when persecution advanced the gospel? Spend some time researching on Google persecution of Christians to see what is happening in our world today.
3. Read verses 15-18. Paul describes two kinds of people that preach the gospel. How are they alike? How are they different? Can you think of people in our world that represent these two types? What should our reaction be to these preachers?
4. The preachers in the verses above are preaching the true gospel. How does this differ from false teaching? What does Jesus say about this in Matthew 7:15-20? Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 and 1 John 4:1-6. What do these verses say about false teaching?

Application: One of the responsibilities of the body of Christ (you and me) is to expose false prophets or teachings and to keep the truth of the gospel pure. Pray for the Holy Spirit to quicken to you any area of your faith that needs tweaking.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to be ever vigilant concerning the truth of the gospel. May our voices be heard over the roar of the Enemy's lies. Anoint our words and our lives to be a testament to Your grace and mercy. We proclaim Jesus as the one, true Savior of the world, and it is in His name we pray. Amen.

