



## Furthering the Gospel

Philippians 1:12-26

5/17/2020

### THE SOURCE

According to Paul, joy comes specifically from the **GOSPEL**.

### FURTHERING THE GOSPEL

1. The gospel is making **PROGRESS** through his **CIRCUMSTANCES**.
  - Paul's identity "**IN** Christ" is affecting the guards.
  - Christians who know Paul are being **STRENGTHENED** for bold witness.
2. The gospel progresses through the **PREACHING** of Paul's **RIVALS**.
  - Both preach **CHRIST**, so Paul **REJOICES**.
  - We see the **CRUCIFORM** shape of Paul's life.
  - Paul's focus is on the **END RESULT**.

The **PRESENT** circumstances do not deprive Paul of his joy.

3. Paul's confidence? That **CHRIST** will be **EXALTED**.

The **FUTURE** circumstances do not deprive Paul of his joy.

4. Paul's reflection on life and death:
  - If they're alive, then they have a **PURPOSE!**
  - And if they die, then they have **HOPE!**
  - He wants to serve as a model of putting the interests of **OTHERS** above your **OWN** interest.

Paul lives and leads in such a way that would lead to their **PROGRESS** and **JOY**.

## Philippians 1:12-26

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

<sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup> for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! <sup>23</sup> I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; <sup>24</sup> but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

<sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup> so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

**What is your joy rooted in?**



## Furthering the Gospel

Philippians 1:12-26

5/17/2020

### ...GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS..

To catch the weekend message, go to the MTC App, or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](http://MissionTrailsChurch.com).

## GETTING STARTED

1. **GROUP LEADER:** Consider splitting your group meeting into 3 parts, keeping the meeting closer to 60-70 minutes:
  - a) Touch base on how everyone is doing – 10-15 min.
  - b) Discuss the questions below – 30-40 min.
  - c) Pray together – 10-15 min.

## DIGGING DEEPER

2. **Was there anything about this week's online sermon that was encouraging, inspiring, challenging or confusing?**
3. **READ Philippians 1:12-26**  
**How would you describe what Paul means when he says that the gospel is advancing through "what has happened to me" (v. 12)?**
4. **What do you think it means that Paul is able to rejoice that his rivals preach Christ, even when they are trying to discredit and undermine him? Any applications for you personally in this?**

## GETTING PERSONAL

### 5. Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

*"<sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. <sup>18</sup> So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

**How do you see the idea of JOY at work here, and how do you apply this truth to your life so that you "do not lose heart?"**

6. **What does it mean in your life if you are/were able to say, "to live is Christ, to die is gain" (v. 21)**

## BRINGING IT HOME

7. **Based on this passage of scripture, are there any specific things you believe God wants you to do, or trust, or believe?**

*OR...*

**What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do this week?**

## PRAY TOGETHER