

# Philippians 1:12-30 – 30 October 2022

## “Go Further With The Gospel”

### Introduction

- \*Paul & the Philippians had a very mature level of Christian experience with each other
  - \*B/c of it, they have great affection for each other
- \*Remember this is 1 of 4 Prison letters written late in Paul’s life circa 61AD
- \*All he’s interested in at this stage of his life is advancing the Gospel – Getting more people to hear!
- \*Every Christian would say, “well sure, I want the Gospel to be advanced & spread”
  - \*But what does it take to make that happen?
  - \*What are we willing to contribute to that end?
- \*For Jesus to bring that Gospel, it cost something!!
  - \*Makes sense then for us to advance it, that it would also cost something
- \*Today, we’ll see 3 ways we can go further in advancing the Gospel**

# **1<sup>st</sup> way to take the Gospel further: Endure hard circumstances: People begin to speak of the Gospel (Vs 12-18)**

Read Vs 12

1. The easy AND the hard things of life have come so that we may present Jesus to people
  - a. Read Rom 8:28 – “All things...”
  - b. Paul told young Timothy, ‘Endure hardness as a good soldier’ (II Tim 2:3)
2. He wants them to ‘understand’ – hard things are often hard to understand until we accept that God is trying to further the Gospel thru us

Read Vs 13

1. Here’s a practical example of the people that the Gospel is reaching that it may never have reached except it be for hard times given to Paul
2. As Paul rejoiced in the Philippian jail, now he rejoices again for those getting saved in Rome

## Read Vs 14

1. Our bold witness thru hard times not just helps preach to the lost but also emboldens believers to grow stronger in faith & action

## Read Vs 15-17

1. Some Christians allowed their competitive nature (flesh) to lead their actions into preaching from a motive of envy
  - a. Always looking at the other preacher to make sure you're doing better than them
  - b. Rather keep eyes on Jesus in faithful service
  - c. Example: Sunday School rotation of men leaders; I wanted to be best – how foolish
2. This can happen with all forms of Christian service, not just preaching (service, donations, etc)
3. Either promoting self or preaching the Savior

## Read Vs 18

1. Just glad that people are talking about the Lord

## **2<sup>nd</sup> way to take the Gospel further: Bring full commitment: Then we'll see more opportunities (Vs 19-24)**

Read Vs 19-20

1. The proof of Paul's salvation is being displayed now publicly
  - a. This public display of God's grace is being aided along by the Philippian's prayers & God's Spirit
2. Paul fully expects that Christ is being exalted b/c of his boldness in displaying Jesus in his life
  - a. He's not expecting to get out of this danger from men, he's expecting that either way, God will be known

## Read Vs 21-22

1. Death isn't defeat, it's graduation to glory
  - a. We not only look forward to death in hope, but also live every day with purpose & joy
2. Notice, Paul just expected that if he lives on, he will bear fruit
3. Paul doesn't know what to choose life or death

## Read Vs 23-24

1. To die is far better for Paul, b/c he knows that he has "run his race" of life well (II Tim 4:6-7)
2. To live is better for the church on earth
  - a. Jesus tells us to occupy until He come back
3. So what is the conclusion of the matter?
  - a. They both have their place and value
  - b. Strive to live a God-honoring life until it's complete
    - i. Read II Cor 5:8-10

**3<sup>rd</sup> way to take the Gospel further: Stand united in faith: Show the difference of the born-again life (Vs 25-30)**

Read Vs 25

1. Every day Paul continues to live is another day to be an encouragement and joy for other believers

Read Vs 26

1. Paul's hope is to come to them again, knowing that it would cause them to rejoice & be encouraged

Read Vs 27

1. He prays they stand strongly united by the power of the Spirit for the cause of the Gospel's dissemination

## Read Vs 28

1. When someone opposes the Gospel coming out of you, just accept it as a clear indication that they are headed to destruction and you to salvation
2. Keep your eyes on the day that all those that are God's will be easily seen

## Read Vs 29-30

1. True belief, leads to real action
2. Expect to be resisted when your life presents the Gospel
3. Remember, you're not just standing in opposition to evil
  - a. You're standing united with the whole universal church of God

## Conclusion

So, how far are you willing to go to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

1. **Are you willing to endure hard circumstances?**
  - a. This naturally generates people talking about the Gospel
  - b. People ask, “How can you have that joy”?
  - c. Drives people to talk about life & death issues
2. **Are you bringing full commitment?**
  - a. Only then will we see more opportunities to speak for Christ & offer eternal life obo Jesus
  - b. To live is Christ...we live for His honor
3. **Are you standing united in faith w/ the Church?**
  - a. When the enemy shots his flaming arrows; lean on your church family for strength of faith
  - b. Don't be ashamed to be seen as different; this will bring conviction to the world of sin