

I. When Kingdom Perspective Owns You (12-13)

A. Eternal gains come from temporary losses (12b) – “...what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel...”

B. Jesus becomes the headline in your suffering (13) – “...so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.”

C. You are not ashamed of your troubles (12a) – “I want you to know, brothers...”

II. When Your Joy Eclipses Your Struggles (14-17)

A. Others are stirred and strengthened (14) – “And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”

B. You shed the victim mentality (15a, 17) – “Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry... The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.”

C. You grow in gratitude for loyal friends (15b - 16) “...but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.”

III. When You Discover Your Faith Is Real (18)

“What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice.”