

June 15, 2022
LCC Youth
Nick Missios

The Gospel in a Hostile World

What does the Christian life look like in a hostile climate?

Philippians 1:12-18 – I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

The Situation

Paul has been through riots, imprisonment in Caesarea, death threats, a shipwreck, and now has been placed under house arrest in Rome for preaching the gospel.

Now, in the midst of his imprisonment, rival preachers are rising up and seeking to elevate themselves in his absence

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How does Paul respond? How should we respond?

Be Bold

Paul is preaching the gospel while he is in prison!

Paul knows he's no different from his guards, with one huge exception:

Paul has met Jesus!

We should be bold because Christ deserves to be proclaimed!

Be United

Paul doesn't focus on the difference in motive between the various preachers in Rome, but instead on their common message: the gospel

The idea of "building a platform" or "being an influencer" is not at all new

Paul's reaction to all of these preachers is the same: rejoicing!

Paul deals with this phenomenon in 1 Corinthians, where the church members are fighting over which apostle is the awesomest. Paul's response?

1 Corinthians 1:12-13, 3:5-7: What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?... What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

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The point of the gospel is not the glory of the preacher, but the Glory of God!

How can Paul be rejoicing about preachers preaching “out of selfish ambition” when, in just a few verses, he will instruct us to “do nothing from selfish ambition” (2:3)?

How do we do this?

Be Bold

Tell your friends about Jesus; Invite them to youth, youth camp, Lock-In, etc.

Be Unified

Encourage your friends in gospel risk and celebrate their success

Encourage your friends towards holiness

Welcome one another’s friends into the gospel community