

Digging Deeper by Robert Lee  
Sermon Series: *Worlds Apart*  
Sermon Title: *Gospel First*  
Scripture Lesson: *Philippians 1:12-18a*

**Monday** – Read Philippians 1:12&13 and pray for Spiritual Advancement. Paul was in prison when he wrote Philippians. Best evidence also suggests that Rome is where he was being held captive. What does it mean to advance? Webster defines *advance* as, “to accelerate the growth or progress of.” It was, therefore, a blessing that Paul was there at the time of this writing as his imprisonment cleared the way for the kingdom of God to penetrate and accelerate through the ranks of the Roman military and beyond. Although Paul was unable to go out to the world and preach, in a unique way, God brought the world to Paul. Ironically, the rotating number of Roman soldiers who guarded him became the *captives* while Paul became *free* to preach.

**Tuesday** – Read Philippians 1:14 and pray for Spiritual Results. This verse helps further the notion that Paul’s condition and location were strategic. Not only was the message about the kingdom of God advancing through levels of the Roman military, but confidence in the Lord was also increasing among the ranks of Paul’s brothers and sisters in Christ who dared all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

**Wednesday** – Read Philippians 1:15 and pray for Spiritual Awareness. This verse tells us that the hearts of those who were preaching Christ were vastly different. Some were preaching out of resentment and competitiveness while the hearts of others were of goodwill, kindness, and generosity. Give some thought about which method of preaching Christ is preferred. We will cover this topic again later.

**Thursday** – Read Philippians 1:16 and pray for Spiritual Love. Verse 16 makes reference to Christians of the day who preached the gospel out of love. Paul considered them to be more accepting with the idea that God positioned Paul where he was in defense of the gospel. Do those who preach the gospel out of love exist today?

**Friday** – Read Philippians 1:17 and pray for Spiritual Cleansing. In contrast to the previous verse, Paul accused those who preached the gospel out of selfish ambition of stirring up trouble for him while he was in chains. Do those who preach the gospel with uncertainty and out of selfish ambition exist today?

**Saturday** – Read Philippians 1:18 and pray for Spiritual Victory. These methods of preaching are worlds apart and still exist today. However, be encouraged to be more like Paul who rejoiced in spite of all these situations and conditions beyond his control. Why? Because both methods helped fulfill his primary goal of advancing the kingdom of God.