

Student Doc

Week 3 Philippians 1:12–20 For the progress of the gospel.

¹² Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,

¹³ so that my imprisonment in *the cause of* Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

¹⁵ Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; ¹⁶ the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. **Yes**, and I will rejoice,

¹⁹ for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

3 Sections

1. V12-14 Circumstances for the _____ of gospel.
2. V15-17 The mixed bag _____
3. V18-19 I will _____ when Christ is exalted.

Section 1 : V12-14 Circumstances for the progress of the gospel.

1. *Thesis / Topic Sentence*
2. *2 Supporting Thoughts.*

Sample Questions :

1. What does he want the church to know? How many things?
2. What are the results of Paul's circumstances?
3. What are those circumstances?
 - a. Imprisonment? Which one? All of them generally? Specifically, 2nd Roman imprisonment?
 - b. ***Do I understand the severity of the circumstances & why Paul would want to explain his circumstances?**
 - c. Praetorian Guard? Who are they?
 - d. Which brethren? General?
4. How does seeing Paul's imprisonment cause the brethren to trust in the Lord? & to speak the gospel?
5. The brothers lacked courage before? They had fear?
6. Overall, how does Paul see his circumstances?

Section 2 : V15-17 The mixed bag reality

1. *Realistic contrast*

Sample Questions :

1. Who are these people preaching from envy and strife? What kind of person would preach the gospel out of envy? Competition of leadership (trying to garner a following)?

- a. Selfish ambition?
 - b. Impure motives?
 - c. Causing Paul distress?
2. Do I understand the contrast he's making between these two groups of preachers?
 3. What was the motivation of the good preachers?
 4. What could be the response of the church as they see this (Paul in prison & compromised pastors preaching out of envy)?

Section 3 : V18-20 I will rejoice when Christ is exalted.

1. *What then? More = More.*

Sample Questions :

1. **What then?** - What are some instinctual reactions to prideful preachers? Could this lend insight to the way the church initially reacted to not only Paul's imprisonment but also to the resulting mix of emboldened preachers?
2. **What is the emphasis here?**
3. What **deliverance** is Paul looking for?
4. What is his expectation and hope?

Conclusion :

Discussion Questions

1. Interpretation of life events. When we have "knee jerk" reactions to life circumstances, what does that reveal about ourselves? Do you have negative / instinctual reaction to hardship and suffering?
2. Motivations : Does motivation or intent matter? Should we prevent / allow people from sharing the gospel if we suspect pride?
3. What are some fears for you when it comes to speaking about Christ? What helps you overcome those fears?
4. Joy: What did we learn in this passage about joy? How was Paul able to rejoice? How can we rejoice no matter what the circumstance are?
5. Purpose : Paul accepted God's grand purpose for his life and his death. To what degree do you understand your purpose? How can we keep the exaltation of Christ as a top priority and purpose of our lives?

Next week | Philippians 1:21-30 "to live is Christ and to die is gain"