

Philippians 1:12-18 NIV

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

<sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

<sup>16</sup> The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

<sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. <sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

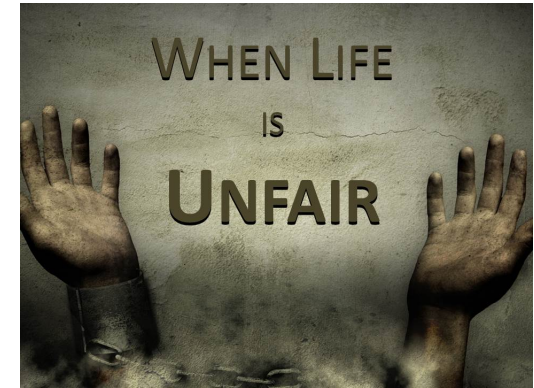


- ◆ Ask God to help you see how difficult circumstances can actually serve to advance the gospel.
- ◆ Ask God to use you in all circumstances.
- ◆ Ask God for confidence to proclaim the gospel without fear.
- ◆ Pray that Christ is proclaimed in our tri-state area.
- ◆ Ask how you can be involved in proclaiming Jesus.

May 3, 2020

EXPLORE THE WORD

- Sunday: Philippians 1:12-18 Amidst bad things the gospel can still advance.
- Monday: Acts 21:26-22:30 Paul’s arrest.
- Tuesday: Acts chapters 23-24 Paul before government authority.
- Wed. Acts chapters 25-26 Using political options.
- Thursday: Acts 27-28 Paul to Rome.
- Friday: Romans 5:1-11 We rejoice in the hope of God’s glory.
- Saturday: Philippians 1:18-26 Prepare for Sunday, invite a friend to watch online.



Big Idea: In the midst of life’s unfairness, we can ask how we can advance the gospel.

Topic: Evaluating our circumstances from God’s perspective.

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## SERMON NOTES

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*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

James 2:17 NIV

To become a mature, spiritually reproducing follower of Jesus we have to interact with the Bible. These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the Word of God and put it into action.



Have you ever been in a situation that you thought could not produce anything good? What happened?

Read Philippians 1:12-18. How did Paul view his difficult circumstances?

What are the implications for us?

Why was Paul, and why should you, be concerned about telling others about Jesus? (Take a look at Acts 4:12)

Paul circumstances encouraged others to talk about Jesus with nonbelievers. Who has been a spiritual encouragement to you to motivate you to share Jesus? (Send a note of appreciation.)

Who could you motivate to tell others about Jesus?

Paul first faced opposition from those resisting the gospel. Now he faces it from believers who are envious. They stirred up discord within the Christian community and hoped to gain a larger following for themselves.

What is the warning for us today? (Paul addresses their character, not their content.)

How did Paul handle the conflict with these leaders?

What was his attitude?

Will you adopt a similar attitude in the face of conflict?

NOTES