

PROCLAIMING JESUS

Philippians 1:12-18

We need to be engaged and excited about proclaiming Jesus!

I. A SURPRISE: PROGRESS! (12)

A. BE IMPRESSED

1. Paul's bonds did not bind the gospel
2. Paul wanted them to be amazed at this unexpected outcome

B. BE INSPIRED

1. Don't get "under the circumstances"
2. Things that happened to Paul caused things to happen through him

C. BE INQUIRING

1. What can God do with your suffering situation?
2. What unexpected things will God do through your circumstances?

II. THE DETAILS: SUCCESS (13-17)

A. THE SOLDIERS PERCEIVE (13a)

1. The Situation: Paul's imprisonment was due to his union with Christ
2. A Scenario - See Acts 28:16, 30-31
 - a. Paul is chained to a soldier for two years
 - b. The soldiers become curious about the charges against Paul
 - c. Then they ask: "And who is this Jesus?"
 - d. What then? The gospel gained amazing access to the palace via this most unusual means
(See Philippians 4:22)

B. THE CITIZENS PERCEIVE (13b)

- "And to everyone else"
1. The Jews - See Acts 28:16-24
 2. The Romans - In the courthouse and the jailhouse
 3. The Christians
 - a. "The impact of that one faithful life revolutionized and energized the entire church."
[John MacArthur, "Philippians," p. 63]
 - b. The palace guards were showing up at their house churches!

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C. THE SAINTS PROCLAIM (14-17)

Note: Verses 16 and 17 are reversed in some versions like the KJV

1. Most Boldly Proclaim (14, 16)
 - a. Gaining confidence and courage they boldly speak the word
 - b. From goodwill (15b) > Good motive and resultant good actions
 - c. Motivated by love (16a) > A sense of Christian care for others
 - d. Understanding Paul's appointment (16b)
2. Some Vainly Proclaim (15, 17)
 - a. From envy (15a): Jealous over Paul's success
 - b. From strife (15a): At odds with his procedures
 - c. From selfish ambition (17a) > Mercenary messengers
 - d. With mean intentions (17b) > Causing distress

III. THE POINT: CELEBRATION (18)

A. CHRIST IS PREACHED....

1. Paul's Mood: What then?
 - a. What then are my feelings about these preachers?
 - b. So what should I be thinking?
2. The Motives Aren't Important
 - a. The motives do not destroy the message
 - b. Even in pretext with ulterior motives, the end result is that people gain some knowledge of Christ! (Consider Jonah's excellent example of this)
3. The Message is What Matters!
 - a. Keep the main thing the main thing
 - b. Paul did not get sidetracked with justice or anger or denouncing his detractors

B. AND I REJOICE!

- Presently and continually

CONCLUSION:

What good news do you know?

1. The gospel is advancing (12)
2. The guards are understanding (13a)
3. The citizens are informed (13b)
4. The brethren are announcing (14-17)
5. And I am rejoicing! (18)

Now that's good news!

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