

Disciples Church

Lesson 3: Wednesday May 17, 2017

HANDOUT

Philippians

Joy in Suffering 1:12-18

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice

1. *Context*
   1. The Epistle to the Philippians was written between 60-62 AD.
   2. Paul wrote this epistle, most likely, during his first imprisonment in Rome.
   3. Philippi was a Roman colony in Greece.
2. *“I want you to know, brothers…”*
   1. Paul had affection and care for the church.
3. *“…that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel…”*
   1. Paul’s jailing had served to advance the gospel.
   2. *Romans 8:28 And we know for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose*
   3. God used Paul’s circumstances to further His agenda. What is God’s agenda in this text? To advance the gospel.
4. *“…so that it [the gospel] has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.”*
   1. We ought to forget ourselves and make Christ known!
5. *“And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”*
   1. Those who stand firm in persecution strengthen the church.
6. *“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. Yes, and I will rejoice.”*
   1. When truth is shared instead of error, no matter the motive, “in that we rejoice; yes, we will rejoice.”
7. *Application*
   1. *1Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*
   2. *2 Cor 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*
   3. *Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
   4. *Jas 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*
   5. *Romans 5:3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance.*
   6. *Matthew 5:12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*