

II. CONFIDENT OF THE GOSPEL – Philippians 1:12-18 (GWT)

Philippians 1:12-18(GWT) ¹²I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what happened to me has helped to spread the Good News. ¹³As a result, it has become clear to all the soldiers who guard the emperor and to everyone else that I am in prison because of Christ. ¹⁴So through my being in prison, the Lord has given most of our brothers and sisters confidence to speak God's word more boldly and fearlessly than ever. ¹⁵Some people tell the message about Christ because of their jealousy and envy. Others tell the message about him because of their good will. ¹⁶Those who tell the message about Christ out of love know that God has put me here to defend the Good News. ¹⁷But the others are insincere. They tell the message about Christ out of selfish ambition in order to stir up trouble for me while I'm in prison. ¹⁸But what does it matter? Nothing matters except that, in one way or another, people are told the message about Christ, whether with honest or dishonest motives, and I'm happy about that. Yes, I will continue to be happy

Our attitude about our situation or circumstance can actually hinder God's will in not only our lives, but others as well. Paul didn't go on and gripe and complain about being in prison for speaking the truth, or even just simply preaching the good news. Instead he rejoiced that because of his imprisonment the gospel was being preached and received even more (Romans 8:28). He recognized that had he not been imprisoned there were souls that would have not heard the gospel. He knew that souls won to eternal blessings were far more important than his temporal earthly comfort.

His confidence in the gospel was such that he did not worry about who was preaching the word, or why they were preaching it. He simply rejoiced that it was being preached and lives were being changed for eternity.

It may be our program, our style and even our material possession, but it's not our gospel. We should not hinder the preaching of the gospel in any way; the Lord knows how to take care of His own business. It is my opinion that too much time is spent by God's people making it difficult for others to preach the gospel. If I have correctly understood the word, God, not man, called us and commissioned us to preach and those who are godly need to move heaven and earth to allow for the unrestricted preaching of the word. If they did, perhaps this generation would be in the midst of a great revival and awakening.

III. CONFIDENT ABOUT THE FUTURE – Philippians 1:21-28 (GWT)

Philippians 1:21-28(GWT) ²¹Christ means everything to me in this life, and when I die I'll have even more. ²²If I continue to live in this life, my work will produce more results. I don't know which I would prefer. ²³I find it hard to choose between the two. I would like to leave this life and be with Christ. That's by far the better choice. ²⁴But for your sake it's better that I remain in this life. ²⁵Since I'm convinced of this, I know that I will continue to live and be with all of you. This will help you to grow and be joyful in your faith. ²⁶So by coming to you again, I want to give you even more reason to have pride in Christ Jesus with me. ²⁷Live as citizens who reflect the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come to see you or whether I stay away, I'll hear all about you. I'll hear that you are firmly united in spirit, united in fighting for the faith that the Good News brings. ²⁸So don't let your opponents intimidate you in any way. This is God's way of showing them that they will be destroyed and that you will be saved.

John 10:10b says that Christ has come to give us abundant life. We often view this only from the natural perspective and rarely cross over to the supernatural perspective. Consider what He is saying I have come to change your perspective of life – that is, life is no longer a temporary experience, but an eternal one. Joy that cannot be comprehended and peace that has never been known.

Paul apparently understood abundant life from the eternal perspective, yet he knew that it was better for him to remain in the temporary life so that he could lead others to the eternal experience. However, he knew what he wanted and that was to be with the Lord.

We can have full confidence about our eternal future regardless of what we may experience while living here in the temporary – we must remember we are only passing through.

We are at war, we must fight to maintain our faith without compromising the good news. The enemy of our souls (John 10:10a) is doing everything in his power to kill, steal and destroy our faith. Let us not help him by losing our eternal perspective. God started this great work of salvation in us and if we do not lose heart, He will complete it.