

REJOICE

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM PHILIPPIANS

MESSAGE: CHARLIE MENG

MUSIC: ALEX GALLAND

DATE: JANUARY 12TH, 2025

FINDING JOY IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Philippians 1:12-18

NOTES:

A Gospel Focus Transforms Difficult Circumstances

Paul's imprisonment...

1. ...opened a whole new ministry field.

Phil. 1:12 *I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,*

Extra Assignment: What Did Paul's Prayer Requests Look Like?

Read Acts 27-28. Make a list tallying "moments of providence" that secured the angel's promise (27:24). How did Paul's experiences help develop his attitude conveyed in Philippians 1:12-18? How does this bolster your own confidence regarding God's will for your life to partner in advancing the gospel?

2. ... exposed unbelievers to the reality of his relationship with Jesus.

Phil. 1:13 *so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.*

3. ...strengthened believers to proclaim the gospel boldly.

Phil. 1:14 *And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*

4. ... stimulated increased proclamation of the gospel (even from those with selfish motives).

Phil. 1:15 *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.*

A Gospel Focus Produces Joy in All Circumstances

Phil. 1:18 *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...*

Remember: The Gospel Was Forged Through An Extremely “Difficult Circumstance”

1Pet. 2:21 *For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.*

Review/Discuss/Apply:

1) Think about a time when you had to navigate a difficult circumstance, or perhaps one you are in the midst of now. How would you describe your “knee-jerk” reaction to such times? In what ways does Paul’s example encourage or challenge you?

2) How have you seen God work in the past through difficult seasons of your life? What benefits/growth have you experienced personally? How has God used your hard times to impact others for his kingdom?

SONGS

*GOD IS FOR US
MADE FOR MORE
GRATITUDE
BUILD MY LIFE*

BUDGET

Giving Last Week (12/23-12/29): \$48,126.70
Weekly Need: \$39,480.00

YTD Giving: \$48,126.70
YTD General Need: \$39,480.00

Altamont Expansion Fund (1/6/25): \$204,938.98

COMMUNICATION & GIVING

Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please pass the envelopes to the ushers or deposit them in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!

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