



Philippians

Having The Mind of Christ

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Lesson 3 (Philippians 1:12-20) The Mind of Christ Regarding Adversity

Philippians 1:12-20
(New King James Version)

12. But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,
13. so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;
14. and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
15. Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:
16. The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;
17. but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.
18. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.
19. For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
20. according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

- 1) Before you consider the questions below, read the verses suggested and describe in your own words what attitude the mind of Christ in Paul caused him to have toward adversity. What applications do you see for you today?

The Principle – Verse 12

- 2) Unpleasant things will happen to Christians
 - a. What things do you think Paul was referring to here?
 - b. What other things does he mention in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27?
 - c. What are some unpleasant things that can happen to us in the service of Christ?
- 3) Such things can advance the gospel.
 - d. Did Paul complain about the things that happened to him? Did he seek sympathy?
 - e. Explain Paul's attitude.

The Results Specified

1. Spreading Influence: How widely were Paul's bonds known? What was known about them?

2. Increasing proclamation of the Gospel
 - a. What affect did Paul's chains have on "most of the brethren"? What motivated them (vss. 15-16)?

 - b. What negative motives were also present for proclaiming the Gospel? What motivated them?

Paul's Reaction

1. Philippians 1:18
 - a. Present attitude:

 - b. Future Attitude:

2. Reason:
 - a. Why did he react in this manner?

 - b. Was Paul unconcerned about motives? Explain what he was saying.

Results Expected

1. In 1:19, what deliverance does he mean; deliverance of his body or of his soul? Through what two factors would this be accomplished?

2. Paul's boldness
 - a. What was his hope and expectation?

 - b. What can cause a person to be "ashamed"?

3. How would Christ be magnified in his body. Explain.

Discussion

Were the preachers who opposed Paul preaching truth or error? Suppose Paul had become involved in a bitter dispute, what effect would it have had?