



## Joy in Adversity

Philippians 1:12-18

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### Message Notes:

When we face adversity in our lives, we sometimes try to avoid it, minimize it or fix it. In fact, far too often we try to fix what can only be endured. We try to fix what must be embraced.

### Ways to pray when we face adversity:

1. "Lord, use me to \_\_\_\_\_."

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

2. "Lord, use me to \_\_\_\_\_."

<sup>14</sup> And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

3. "Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ me."

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

## Discussion Questions:

Read Philippians 1:12-18

1. What sorts of things are people typically concerned with in Paul's situation? What do we learn about Paul's priorities in this passage? What does he rejoice over?
2. How does Paul refocus this hardship in his life to help the Philippian church gain perspective? (Phil. 1:13-14; 18; 4:22)
3. Paul's joy was not rooted in his circumstances or his life compared to others. Where did it come from? How does/should the Gospel produce joy in adversity?
4. Paul says he was "put here" in prison. Who put him there and why? What do we learn about God's priorities or character that he would "put" Paul in this situation?
5. Why have you been "put" in your job, in your neighborhood, in your family? (Try to go beyond the obvious answer "to share the gospel." Paul shared specifically with the imperial guard, God has put you into certain people's lives. Who are they? Why does it make sense that you would be the person to share?)
6. If God used Paul's imprisonment for good, what are ways that you have seen God use use your hardships for His glory?
7. What situation would cause people to preach Christ out of envy, rivalry, or selfish ambition? What is Paul's perspective on people who preach Christ from false motives? (Phil. 1:18)
8. Have you been critical of the motives or methods of other Christians who are accurately preaching the gospel? What advice would Paul give you about this? What does this reveal about your heart and some areas you may need to grow?