

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Philippians 1:12-18a--March 5th, 2023

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## **Sermon Recap:**

### **Advancing the Gospel**

#### **I. In Witness (v.12-13)**

Paul had planned to visit the church in Rome to preach and disciple. Instead, he finds himself visiting Rome in chains. He is under house arrest, chained to the imperial guard every hour of the day.

##### **a. Priority**

- Paul's main priority in life and ministry is to advance the gospel by preaching the grace of Jesus Christ.

##### **b. Perspective**

- Paul does not see himself as a victim.
- Our lives and plans are always subject to the will of God.
- Knowing this, Paul does not see his surrounds are a prison, but instead, sees them as a mission field.

##### **c. Pulpit**

- Paul seizes the opportunity to preach the gospel to the very guards shackled to his side.
- Through his words and character, the guards recognize that Paul is not in prison because of Caesar, but for Christ.
- Every circumstance, no matter how dire or difficult, is an opportunity to advance the gospel.

#### **II. In Boldness (v.14)**

- The gospel advanced on a second front as the church in Rome was inspired by Paul's witness from prison.
- They sought to proclaim the same truth and suffer the same consequences as Paul.
- The gospel we preach, whether true or false, emboldens others to follow.

#### **III. In Joy (v.15-18a)**

- Some had risen to preach the gospel for the glory of Christ. Others had come to preach for their own glory and Paul's humiliation.
- Either way, as long as the true Christ was being preached, Paul rejoiced.
- If we have to lose or be humiliated or rejected to advance the gospel, we should be willing.
- We proclaim the glory of Christ, not the messenger.

## Discussion Questions:

- Why might Paul not be happy with his life at this point?
- What is surprise about Paul's reaction to his imprisonment? How might someone react today?
- According to v.12-18, what is primary in Paul's mind?
- Paul says that his imprisonment has made some believers more "confident" and "much more bold," why would the persecution of one Christian produce courage in others?
- What does "love" (v.16) have to do with gospel boldness?
- According to v.14-16, what are the right and good motivations for preaching the gospel?
- What are the wrong motivations according to v.15-17?

## Application:

- How does the way Paul reacts to his imprisonment tell you that you should respond to sufferings, trials, and hardships in your own life? Does anything in this passage especially convict you?
- What prevents you from responding as Paul did?
- Think of a difficult circumstance that you have recently faced. What would it look like to respond in the same way as Paul?
- In terms of importance, what does the gospel mean to you? Does it mean enough that you are willing to suffer hardship for it to prosper or is it secondary to your own comfort and reputation?
- In what part of your life do you need to transform your priority and perspective? Pray that the Lord would aid you in this transformation.

