



HELP ADVANCE THE GOSPEL *Philippians 1:12-18*

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Good morning Church! At times in our lives, there are extremely difficult situations that may cause thoughts or wonder why God allows us to go through it. In times of suffering, I pray that your faith would remain strong and that doubt, fear or anxiety would not overwhelm you. But God's goodness and joy in the middle of pain and hardship is what is overwhelming. Paul experienced heavy persecution and imprisonment on his second and third missionary journey. Paul writes this letter in a Roman prison, but he doesn't reflect on the negativity of his condition, but rather is overwhelmed of how God is using his condition to advance the gospel.

Philippians 1:12-18

*"I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, **13** so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. **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. **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. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice."*

What are signs of advancement of the gospel?

1. The Gospel Advances by the KNOWLEDGE to One's FAITH. (v 13)

2. The Gospel Advances by the BOLDNESS to Speak the WORD. (v 14)

3. The Gospel Advances by the CLEAR Preaching of CHRIST. (v 15-18)

- GOD is most important and that knowing Christ Jesus is EVERYTHING for life.

*“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” **Philippians 2:3***

- The PROCLAIMER gains self-importance and seeks more approval of MEN than from God.

*“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — **7** not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. **8** But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.” **Galatians 1:6-9***

Salvation through Jesus Christ

The single most important decision a person could ever make in their lifetime is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, "all have sinned and fall short of God's glory" and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death". Yet through God's love, only "Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith"... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead YOU WILL BE SAVED. **The Bible says to REPENT of your sins. BELIEVE in Jesus receiving His forgiveness.** Then, identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.