

Philippians 1:12-18

A Heart for the Gospel

Paul continues chapter 1 by shedding light on a second thing that brought him great joy. Despite being in prison and facing people who were trying to cause trouble, Paul shows a heart for the gospel that surpasses temporary problems.

> In what way was Paul's imprisonment a good thing (vv. 12-14)? It allowed people in prison to hear the gospel and it encouraged other believers to boldly share their faith.

> Paul mentioned that there were some individuals who preached out of selfish motives and jealousy toward Paul. What was Paul's response to such people (vv. 15-18)? Why did he have this response? He rejoiced. He was just happy that the gospel was being preached and that people were getting saved.

> How do you think that Paul was able to keep such a positive attitude, even when people were intentionally making things harder on him? His focus was on the gospel, not on himself. He was driven by sharing the gospel, not about making his life better.

Application

If we think about what Paul is expressing in these verses, we will see his words can be quite convicting. A prison sentence, nor troublemakers, could distract Paul from his passion to see the gospel proclaimed! We can see that:

- Spreading the gospel should be of greater concern than the difficulties that come with circumstances of life.
- Spreading the gospel should be of greater concern than any heartache that may come from personal attacks.

Embracing these truths will allow us to have a heart for sharing the gospel, without worrying about the things that often distract us (Heb. 12:1-2)! What troubles are you facing right now? How can they be used for the sake of the gospel?

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