

Sun Morning

COURAGE IN THE STRUGGLE

PASTOR PAUL CHAPPELL | APRIL 14, 2024

Text: Philippians 1:12-19

"But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; 13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; 14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. 15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. 18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. 19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ," (Philippians 1:12-19)

INTRODUCTION

- Paul was in prison in Rome
- City of Philippi along Aegean Sea in northern part of modern Greece
- Epaphras/Epaphroditus sent by church at Philippi to help Paul

1. THE REALITY OF Persecution (v. 12-14)

A. The perception of Persecution - distress, trouble

Word will reveal the heart "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." (1 Corinthians 4:5)

"And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. 19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. 21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them." (Genesis 50:18-21) Joseph & his brothers

B. The progress through Persecution

- God worked out the persecution to spread the gospel (good news) out

THE GOSPEL IS FURTHERED - spreads everywhere

Quote: "The apostle's recent experiences have had the same effect on the gospel message as the work of sturdy engineers has on the progress of an army. These men are sent ahead in order to remove obstructions and clear the roads for the rest of the army."—Hendriksen

"Whosoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company." (Romans 15:24)

GOD IS FAITHFUL - God makes more Christians

"All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household." (Philippians 4:22)

CHRISTIANS ARE ENCOURAGED - to speak boldly about Jesus Christ

2. THE RELENTLESS Problems (v. 15-17)

A. The problems of Motives

ONE PREACHES FOR ENVY AND STRIFE (or money or power)

see
Lk 9:50

"And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us. 39 But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. 40 For he that is not against us is on our part. 41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." (Mark 9:38-41)

"Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom." (Proverbs 13:10)

ONE PREACHES FOR GOOD WILL

B. The proof of Motives - BIG WHY?

ONE PREACHES WITH CONTENTION

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (Philippians 2:3)

"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not." (3 John 1:9)

ONE RELIEVES AFFLICTION

love of
Christ
reason
to preach
Christ

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

others
wolves in
sheep
clothing

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears." (Acts 20:28-31)

3. THE REJOICING OF patience (v. 18)

A. Christ Was preached

IN PRETENSE

IN TRUTH

see
Zech 4:6

"For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake." (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

"Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:10)

B. Paul rejoiced

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

CONCLUSION

- Epaphras/Epaphroditus mentioned
in Col 1:7, 4:12, & Philemon 1:23
- mentioned also in Philp 2:25, 4:18

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

