

Participating in the Progress of the Gospel Philippians 1:12-21

Paul challenges the church to continue to sacrificially participate in the progress of the gospel in the midst of persecution. For us to effectively do this, it is helpful to have taken a large step of faith and sacrifice of participating in missions.

“Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear,” Philippians 1:12-14

I. All Circumstances are an Opportunity to Participate in the Progress of the Gospel – 1:12-14

“Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice.” Philippians 1:15-18

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-11

II. Participation in the Progress of the Gospel is an Opportunity to take part in something GREAT! – 1:15-18

“Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance (*salvation*) through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:19-21

“Yes, and I will rejoice, for I know that this imprisonment will turn out to my salvation/deliverance, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

III. Participation in the Progress of the Gospel should be our Primary Goal in all Circumstances – 1:19-21

IV. Participation in the Progress of the Gospel requires Sacrifice

1. How can I participate in the progress of the gospel right now?
2. What is keeping me from participating in missions this year?