

Sermon Discussion Questions: Gospel Perspective (pt. 2)

Philippians 1:12–18

The following outline and discussion questions have been prepared to accompany the sermon on February 25, “Gospel Perspective (pt. 2)” (Phil 1:12–18). The questions can be used for discussion in small groups or for personal reflection.

Passage

Outline:

- I. The Situation: Unstoppable Advance of the Gospel (1:12–17)
 - A. Advancing through imprisonment (1:13)
 - B. Advancing though ever-increasing boldness (1:14)
 - C. Advancing despite mixed motivations (15–17)
- II. Paul’s Response: Unbridled celebration over the Gospel’s advance (1:18)

Main Point (1:12–18) The gospel completely reshapes our perspective by redefining the nature of true success.

Sermon:

Question: *How can Paul rejoice when disingenuous preachers are preaching the gospel for their own ends?*

Sermon Outline:

- I. Paul is Passionate About Gospel Purity
 - A. Paul reserves his strongest language for those who pervert the gospel
 - B. Paul believes that the gospel is more than a “decision” for Jesus
 - C. Paul must believe that these disingenuous preachers are truly preaching Christ.
- II. Paul is Critiquing their Motives NOT the Content of Their Message (1:14–17)
 - A. Their identity (1:14–17)
 - B. Their motivation (1:15–17a)
 - C. Their goal (1:17b)
 - D. Their message (1:14; 1:18)
- III. What Can We Learn From Paul Today?
 - A. Learn to celebrate the important things
 - B. Learn to check your motives first

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Discussion Questions:

- *In what ways has Paul's situation "really served to advance the gospel" (1:12)?*
- *How do we know that these self-serving preachers were really preaching the gospel?* [1. Textual evidence. 2. Circumstantial evidence]
- *How is the boldness of those who "preach Christ from envy and rivalry" different from the boldness of those who preach from "good will" (1:15–17). [Connect to part 1. Q: How does persecution and imprisonment produce boldness? A: Superior Power and Superior Treasure. And contrast with "boldness" of the envious group who are emboldened merely because Paul is out of the picture.]*

Application Questions:

- *What are you most passionate about right now? Honestly?* (What do you think about the most and spend your time and money pursuing?)
- *How can we nurture and pursue a greater sense of gospel-centered perspective in our personal lives?*
- *What are the three things that cause Christians to struggle with boldness that pastor Mark identified two weeks ago in part 1 (Sunday, February 18)?*
- *How might these three things nurture OR erode gospel-centered perspective?* (Nurture if corrected and erode if uncorrected.)
- *How do our personal motivations in service or refusal to serve nurture OR erode gospel-centered perspective?*
- *What would our church look like if we, as a local congregation, we measured and celebrated true success like Paul does in 1:18? What kind of things would we be doing?*