

## PREACHING CHRIST IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

(Philippians 1:12-18)

### I. INTRODUCTION

### II. THE SALUTATION TO THE PHILIPPIANS (1:1-2)

### III THE PRAYER FROM PRISON (1:3-11)

### IV. ADVERSITY NEED NOT BE A HINDRANCE IN YOUR MINISTRY (1:12-18)

#### A. Paul's personal PREDICAMENT while in PRISON (1:12)

1. The Apostle wanted the Philippian believers to \_\_\_\_\_ that his present hardships were in God's \_\_\_\_\_. (1:12a) "*But I want you to \_\_\_\_\_, brethren...*"
2. Paul sought to inform the Philippians that "\_\_\_\_\_" for the Lord is often achieved through \_\_\_\_\_ circumstances (1:12b) "*that the things which happened to me...*"
3. The Apostle sincerely wanted to encourage the saints that even though he was presently \_\_\_\_\_ in chains, the Word of God was certainly \_\_\_\_\_! (1:12c)

#### B. Coming to grips with the REASON for his IMPRISONMENT (1:13)

1. Even Paul's captors came to realize that he was not in chains because of personal \_\_\_\_\_ that he had committed against the state or other people; but he was in prison because he \_\_\_\_\_ Christ and Him crucified. (1:13)
2. God's divine providence allowed His servant's personal \_\_\_\_\_ while under trial-some circumstances to be a godly \_\_\_\_\_ "*to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest.*"

#### C. What Godly OPTIMISM can do for others by way of ENCOURAGEMENT (1:14)

1. Paul's godly perspective while in chains generated \_\_\_\_\_ among the early Church. (1:14a)

2. More and more Christians became \_\_\_\_\_ in their proclamation of the Gospel of grace, because they no longer \_\_\_\_\_ the authorities like they once had in the past. (1:14b)

**D. Paul's message caused a MIXED REACTION in other people (1:15-17)**

1. The Apostle identified two different groups (in verses 15-17) by the double usage of the word "some."
  - a. *The first group (the minority) preached a clear gospel, but with unrighteous motives...*
    - 1) inwardly there was \_\_\_\_\_ among them (v. 15)
    - 2) outwardly there was \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 15)
    - 3) the cause was \_\_\_\_\_ without sincerity (v. 16)
  - b. *The second group (the majority) also preached a clear gospel, but with proper motives...*
    - 1) they were determined by their own \_\_\_\_\_ to glorify the Lord (v. 15)
    - 2) their motivation was \_\_\_\_\_ for the Apostle and Christ (v. 17)
    - 3) they knew that Paul was in prison because of his \_\_\_\_\_ of the Gospel (v. 17)

**E. The Gospel was BEING PROCLAIMED (1:18)**

\* How could Paul actually rejoice when one group preached Christ under a facade? (v. 18)

\* What does all of this mean to you personally?