

## You Cannot STOP the Gospel ~ Philippians 1:7-19

→ Scripture Reading Phil. 1:9-13

### INTRODUCTION

**Acts 9:15-16** (NIV) ...the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry My Name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.

**Acts 23:11** (NLT) That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said, "Be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the Good News in Rome as well."

**Acts 28:30-31** (NIV) For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. <sup>31</sup> Boldly and without hindrance he PREACHED the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Paul's PRAYER ~ Philippians 1:7-11

<sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you IN my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> SO THAT you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.

#### Paul PRAYS for them that...

- their Love would OVERFLOW vs. 9
- they would GROW in Knowledge and Understanding vs. 9
- they would DISCERN what Best vs. 10
- they live Pure and BLAMELESS lives vs. 10
- they be Filled with the FRUIT of their Righteousness vs. 11

### IMPLICATION

<sup>11</sup> filled with the **FRUIT of RIGHTEOUSNESS** that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.

Our Righteousness comes through our faith in Christ. He Justifies us and transforms our lives, as we become more like Him. A relationship with Christ is Required to have fruit in the Christian life. HNT

**John 15:4-5** (NIV) REMAIN in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you REMAIN in Me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man REMAINS in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.

#### Remaining in the VINE means to STAY...

- CONNECTED to the Vine
- DEPENDENT on the Vine

→ **PRUNING** is **trimming back** ALL parts of the branch that are not Essential to Growing Fruit

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear!  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!  
Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.

### True or False MOTIVATION? ~ Philippians 1:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

The positive response Paul received in the FACE of opposition caused others to speak more courageously and fearlessly for Christ. Paul's imprisonment was doing what his circumstances outside of prison could never do. FSSB

**Other Believers...**

- saw Paul use PRISON as an opportunity to Share the Good News
- were encouraged to use their FREEDOM to Share the Gospel

<sup>15</sup> It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup> The latter do so in love, knowing that **I am PUT HERE for the defense** of the gospel. <sup>17</sup> The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

Paul's Friends		Paul's Opponents	
Preach Christ	vs. 16	Preach Christ	vs. 15
Out of goodwill	vs. 15	Out of Envy and Rivalry	vs. 15
In Love	vs. 16	From Selfish Ambition	vs. 17
Know I am here to defend the gospel	vs.16	Want to stir up trouble and to make things worse for me	vs. 17
Genuine Motives	vs. 17	False Motives	vs. 18

The Message was TRUE - but the Motives were TWISTED and sinful

<sup>18</sup> But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, I WILL continue to REJOICE,

Paul knew that his **current circumstances** were not as important as what he did with them. LABC

<sup>19</sup> for I know that **through your prayers** and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me **will turn out for my DELIVERANCE**.

**TAKE AWAY ??**

<sup>19</sup> For I know that as you PRAY for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ HELPS me, this will lead to my Deliverance. (NLT)

➔ Paul expected their PRAYER and the Work of H.S. would lead to his DELIVERANCE

**Paul's Reaction...**

- he did not FOCUS on Himself
- the Mission was still the SAME
- was to SHOW the Greatness of Christ
- did not ACCUSE God of Neglecting him
- did not Blame Satan
- REMEMBERED he was Under Orders

**2 Timothy 2:3-4** (NIV) <sup>3</sup> Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.

**Characteristics of a GOOD Soldier**

- Endure HARDSHIP
- Don't get TANGLED up in Civilian life
- Make it you goal to PLEASE your Commander

<sup>16</sup> ...knowing that **I am PUT HERE for the defense** of the gospel.