

The Progress of the Gospel

TEXT: Phil. 1:12-30

INTRODUCTION:

- A. PAUL SAYS ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM, INCLUDING HIS SUFFERING, HAS BEEN FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL.
- B. HOW DID HIS IMPRISONMENT CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROGRESS?

I. THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF HIS IMPRISONMENT BECAME KNOWN TO ALL, INCLUDING THE PRAETORIAN GUARD

(vs. 13).

- A. COMPANY OF SOLDIERS PERMANENTLY STATIONED AT ROME.
- B. PAUL WAS GUARDED BY SOLDIERS IN ROME IN HIS OWN HIRED HOUSE (**Acts 28:16, 30-31**).
- C. THESE SAME SOLDIERS GUARDED CAESAR'S PALACE(**Phil. 4:21-22**).

II. BRETHREN WERE EMBOLDENED TO PREACH(vs. 14-18).

- A. FOR DIFFERING REASONS.
 - 1. Some of good will and love(**vs. 15-16**).
 - 2. Some of envy and strife(**vs. 15, 17**).
- B. PAUL REJOICED IN THE RESULT.
 - 1. Paul's purpose was not exaltation of self(**1 Cor. 2:1-5**).
 - 2. His mission in life(**Eph. 3:8-9**).
 - 3. The knew the cost(**2 Cor. 12:15**).
 - 4. He also was aware of the reward(**vs. 19-20**). **SALVATION!**
 - a. From prison?
 - b. Eternal?
- C. THIS CONFORMED TO HIS EXPECTATION AND HOPE(**vs. 20**).
 - 1. That he never be put to shame in the Gospel(**Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:12**).
 - 2. That with all boldness, Christ is magnified in his body(**2 Cor. 4:7-15**).
 - a. Whether by life – the way he lived(**Matt. 5:16**).
 - b. Or by death – his death would signify the Gospel's importance (**Acts 20:24**).

III. WHY IS PAUL WILLING TO PAY SUCH A PRICE?

- A. TO LIVE IS CHRIST – TO DIE IS GAIN, A DIFFICULT CHOICE(**vs. 21-24**).
 - 1. Dying means the end of suffering and being with Jesus(**2 Cor. 5:1-9**).
 - 2. Living in the flesh is needful for their sakes(**vs. 24**).
 - a. Redeemed for a purpose(**Titus 2:13-14**).
 - b. Paul had a use among them(**vs. 25-26**).
- B. REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME.
 - 1. Walk worthily of the gospel(**vs. 27**).
 - a. Call to purity.
 - b. Call to a common cause – unity in action.
 - 2. In nothing be affrighted(**vs. 28**).
 - a. Their suffering an evident token of the adversary's perdition.

- b. But of your salvation(**1 Pet. 1:6-9**).
- c. Suffering would come for them(**vs. 27-30**).
- d. And it will for us(**vs. 21-23**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. HOW WE APPROACH DEATH DEPENDS ON OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE.
- B. WOULD IT TRULY BE GAIN FOR ME TO DIE?
- C. TO DIE IS GAIN, IF TO LIVE IS (for) CHRIST!