

“What Then?”

April 22nd & 23rd, 2017

Philippians 1:14-18

Paul trusted the Sovereign plan of God for his life!

❖ Paul knew that he was put in prison for two specific reasons:

1. The advancement of the gospel *Philippians 1:12*

“Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.” 2 Timothy 2:3-4

- The good soldier is always on duty!

2. The defense of the gospel *Philippians 1:16; Philippians 1:7*

“so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.” Philippians 1:13

What then? ... Praise!

Paul trusted that God would use people with tainted motives to proclaim the good news of Jesus!

❖ These were not people who were presenting a “different gospel.”

“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.” Galatians 1:8

❖ These were not false teachers bringing in “destructive heresy.”

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.” 2 Peter 2:1

❖ These were individuals proclaiming the gospel of Christ out of a spirit of “rivalry.”

Rival: “... standing in competition for superiority; ...”¹

“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit...” Philippians 2:3

- 2 Corinthians 10:10-18

What then? ... Hope!

Paul rejoiced that Christ was being proclaimed “*whether by pretense or in truth*”!

❖ In pretense the motive is veiled.

Pretense: (Greek) “It signifies the assuming of something so as to disguise one’s real motive.”²

“The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.” Philippians 1:17

❖ In truth the motive is transparent and pure.

“The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.” Philippians 1:16

❖ Paul’s source of joy was in the Philippians partnership in the gospel. *Philippians 1:5-6*

- ❖ Paul rejoiced that Christ was being proclaimed even if the motive of the preachers was to vex him while he was in prison!
 “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,” Romans 5:3
- ❖ Paul’s joy was in knowing Jesus and making Him known!

JOY ...
Jesus and You with nothing in-between!

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

² Vine, W.E. *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*. Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997.

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