



Pastor Jeff's Daily Devotion Day 21 January 31, 2010

Day 21

Philippians 1:12-18

¹²Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. ¹⁵It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸But 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.

You hear people talk all the time about God's blessings, but rarely do we look at hardship as God provided. Paul here is seeing that being in jail has actually been for the good. One of the great benefits of Paul's imprisonment is that he wrote the book of Philippians so that we could learn from it today. Another benefit is that the whole palace guard was able to hear the gospel. It also spurred fellow believers on to be bolder in speaking the word of God. We never know what God is up to, but we have to trust that He has a bigger plan. This is much easier to say than to do. If you are going through a hard time right now, you may have no idea what He is teaching you or what He may be teaching others that are close to you. It's not about us and what we want, but about Him and His will. Paul was able to keep this perspective because he always lived with eternity in view.

Lord, no matter the circumstance, please help me keep your perspective. Help me to trust that even though I may not see your hand clearly, I can always trust that You are working things out for Your purposes. And if I trust, it will ultimately be blessing for me as well.