Pressing Onward

A Study in Philippians

3/10/2019

**[Pressing Onward: Advancing the Gospel]**

Philippians 1: 12-14

*Verse 12*

Paul likely has two things in mind when writing the phrase “what has happened to me” (verse 12).

(\*) Immense \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(\*) Tremendous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

In response to the sufferings that had brought him to this point as well as the joys that had been known to him- Paul says that it has all *really* served to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the gospel.

Even so, Paul is not the hero, instead he is a vessel who allows his life be used by God for the progress of the gospel.

The power of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is what enables this for Paul.

Whatever we have experienced in life - tragedy, suffering, joy, happiness - it is not in vain. Each serve a purpose -somehow and someway - for our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- namely the advancement of the gospel.

It was not only Paul’s suffering and joy but it was also his physical location that served to advance the gospel.

What seemed like a hinderance to Paul (his chains) was in reality God’s wisdom and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the spreading of the gospel throughout Rome and beyond.

*Verse 13*

The usefulness (for the advancing of the gospel) of Paul’s life experiences and his physical location was dependent on his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to actually share the gospel.

Gospel “success” is not seen in the results but rather in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to share the good news of the gospel with others.

*Verse 14*

Paul’s willingness to view his sufferings and joys as well as his current physical location in order to progress the gospel onward served as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to other Christians.

When others observe our faithfulness to use our lives, influences, surroundings, sufferings and joys all for the purpose of making Christ known they become strengthened in their witness and more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.

*Application*

God wants to use all that has brought you to this point in your life - your joys and tragedies - to advance the gospel and save those who do not yet know him.

God wants to use your physical location in life (job, friends, neighborhood, family, age, etc. - all that you are -) to advance the gospel and save those who do not yet know him.

You - I - We - are God’s plan to reach this community and beyond with the good news of the gospel.

*Blanks: suffering & joy; advance; gospel; good & glory; plan; obedience; faithfulness; encouragement; confident*