

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Philippians 1:12-18

Paul expresses his joy – that even in the midst of adverse circumstances – the Gospel was still being preached and people were still being saved.

1. THE GOSPEL PROGRESSED DESPITE IMPRISONMENT (v12-14)

- A) It was all according to God's design (V.12)
- B) The gospel spread inside the prison (V.13)
- C) The Gospel Spread Outside the Prison (V.14)

2. THE GOSPEL PROGRESSED DESPITE RELIGIOUS OPPOSITION (V15-18)

- A) Paul's opposition also came from "believers"
- B) Envy (V.15)
- C) Strife

3. THE REMEDY!

- A) Must see the bigger picture (V.17)
- B) "Rejoice!" (V.18)

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HOME BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

1. I'm sure Paul was challenged emotionally while in prison. But was he absolutely discouraged and depressed? Explain your answer.
2. Cite the verses and words from this text that reveal Paul's understanding of God's sovereignty.
3. Which two groups of people was Paul able to influence with the Gospel while he was in prison? (v13 &14) What effect did he have on them?
4. According to this text, who were the people that opposed Paul while he was in jail? (v15) What does this say about "some believers"?
5. Describe how envy, jealousy and strife can be destructive. (See Genesis 4:3-8; Numbers 12:1-10; 1 Sam 18:6-16) (James 4:1-2)
6. What are some biblical remedies for overcoming strife and jealousy? (Romans 6; Galatians 5:16-26; Philippians 2:3)

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