



***When Opposition  
Becomes Opportunity***

***PASTOR MIKE YODER • PHILIPPIANS 1:12–26***





*Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the Gospel.*

**Philippians 1:12**



*As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*

**Philippians 1:13**



*And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the Gospel without fear.*



*It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.*



*The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the Gospel.*



*The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.*



*But 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. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,*

**Philippians 1:18**



*for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.*



*I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.*

**Philippians 1:20**



*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

**Philippians 1:21**



*If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!*



*I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;*



*but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*



*Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,*

**Philippians 1:25**



*so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.*





Our difficult realities in  
life can result in remarkable  
Gospel progress.



**Paul did not find his joy in ideal circumstances; he found his joy in winning others to Christ.**

**Warren Wiersbe**



**Skeptics heard Paul's Gospel  
witness and allegiance to Christ.**





**Throughout the history of the church, God has often advanced the Gospel by placing His people in circumstances and locations they could not reach by themselves**

**Matthew Harmon**



**so that those beyond the apparent reach of the Gospel  
might hear the good news and believe.**



**Believers gained courage  
through Paul to speak the  
Gospel with confidence.**



*for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's Word is not chained.*



**Though the messenger may be bound in chains, the message cannot be bound. Caesar's chains released the power of the Gospel of Christ.**







*And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.*



*Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.*



*But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.*

**Acts 8:3**



*Those who had been scattered preached the Word  
wherever they went.*



**If our world rises and falls on our experience of religious liberty, it betrays the fact that our hopes are hung on the wrong thing.**

**Jonathan Wiley**



**The wonderful realities  
of Gospel power foster  
changed perspectives.**



**Paul celebrated the fruitfulness  
of Gospel witness.**



**As long as the focus is kept on Christ, there will be unity in the church. As soon as the focus shifts to interpersonal competition and conflict, unity will be destroyed.**

**G. Walter Hansen**



**It is not that Paul is too heavenly minded to be in touch with reality, or that he sees things through rosy-tinted glasses. Rather, he sees everything in light of the bigger picture.**



**Paul is a man of a single passion: Everything is to be seen and done in light of Christ.**



**The secret is this: when you are single-minded, you look on your circumstances as God-given opportunities for the furtherance of the Gospel;**

**Warren Wiersbe**



**and you rejoice at what God is going to do instead of complaining about what God did not do.**

**Warren Wiersbe**



**Paul embraced the  
faithfulness of Gospel living**





*Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him; I will surely defend my ways to His face.*

**Job 13:15**



*Indeed, this will turn out for my deliverance, for no godless person would dare come before Him!*



**As shameful as imprisonment and execution were in the Roman world, that was not Paul's concern. He would be ashamed if he did or said anything that was not consistent with the proclamation of Jesus Christ.**



*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.*



*Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing.*



**If we are here, we are meant to be on mission.**



**Paul did not say that this life is so wretched and so worthless that it would be better to die in order to escape its endless toil and drudgery. He did not list all the physical ailments**



and the emotional turmoil that he would surely have to endure if he continued to live. Just the opposite: Paul was totally confident that *this life means fruitful labor*.



**The presence of opposition  
invites the privilege of opportunity.**

