

Remnant Life Church  
February 6, 2022  
**The Church of the Philippians**  
Part 5  
**What Do You Make Evident?**  
Phil 1:12-14

Review:

- We read from Galatians 5 the list of the fruits of the spirit
- Paul had said in vs 11 of Phil 1 that as our love abounds or grows it will be seen in our lives as the fruit of righteousness
  - IOW it will be evident
  - It is a right way of living exemplified by those fruits of the spirit
  - And we looked in more depth at the final virtue of that list - self-control
- It is a foundational element on which the fruits can be seen and demonstrated

**READ – Phil 1:12-14**

Each of these three verses contains a central thought that is important for us to understand

1. **V 12** – ...*what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel*
  - a. Paul writes this as a response to what was likely the message brought to him
    - i. Later in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Philippians we read that a man by the name of Epaphroditus, who was most likely the pastor of the Philippian church, brought gifts to Paul from the church during his first Roman imprisonment
    - ii. His message to Paul, undoubtably conveying the sentiment of the people probably went something along these lines:
    - iii. Our dear Paul – we were all so distressed to hear that you are in prison. Certainly, they have no just cause to do this and we cannot image how difficult it must be for you. Please do not become overly discouraged that your ministry has been forced to come to a stop and we will continue to pray that somehow, someway, God will ease your burdens, comfort you, and encourage you until you can begin ministering again. With heavy hearts - Your grieving brothers and sisters in Philippi.
    - iv. Have you ever had somebody pray for you and you felt worse afterwards than you did before?
  - b. Verse 12 is Paul's response to that likely sentiment expressed by Epaphroditus
    - i. In this verse Paul is, in essence saying, Whoa, whoa, whoa! Not only am I still preaching salvation through Jesus Christ, but the Gospel is advancing even further because of these circumstances.
  - c. The advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ cannot be thwarted by unseen circumstances or events
    - i. Let me remind you of something
    - ii. God is all-powerful, He is all-supreme, and He is sovereign over all His creation
  - d. But the work of God's Hand goes even beyond the advancement of the Gospel

- i. His call on your life and what He desires for you cannot be lost because of adverse circumstances
      - ii. Paul was in an adverse circumstance/environment
      - iii. Not only did it not stop him but, as he writes to the people, it advanced his efforts
    - e. The prophet Jonah could probably speak to this truth
      - i. You know the familiar story
      - ii. But my favorite verse in that account has nothing to do with Jonah, the fish, or even the end result
      - iii. **Jonah 3:1** – *Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time*
      - iv. God’s call, His instructions, His assignment for Jonah had not changed
    - f. REFUSE to allow difficult circumstances, unseen obstacles, or apparent roadblocks to discourage you into quitting what God has for you – PRESS THROUGH!
      - i. Paul did not view this as a setback but as a blessing
      - ii. He had no greater desire than to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Rome
      - iii. And here, God had even given him a captive audience
    - g. God will turn your obstacles into opportunities if your mind and heart are set on the things of Him and not your surroundings
    - h. Remember Peter walking on the water!
2. **V 13** - *...it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ*
- a. I like how the Amplified Version states this
  - b. *So much is this a fact that throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest [here] my imprisonment has become generally known to be in Christ [that I am a prisoner in His service and for Him].*
    - i. Make no mistake – Paul is not under house-arrest as he was at other times
      - 1. The word “imprisonment” in the original language is *dez-mohn*
      - 2. It comes from the root word *dez* which means to bind
      - 3. Paul is literally in chains
    - ii. So, could his reputation throughout the entire prison even have been possible if Paul’s demeanor had been one of depression, anger, or self-pity?
    - iii. No – anyone who came into contact with Paul would have come to quickly realize that he was not there as a political prisoner, a thief, or any other type of law-breaker
    - iv. Paul made it very evident that his life was not his own and that he was there only as a servant of the One True God
  - c. What do you make evident to the people who come into contact with you throughout the day?
  - d. What do they see by how you respond when things are going well
    - i. And more importantly, how you respond when things are not going well

- ii. As Christians, in a modern culture that is almost completely devoid of kindness, patience, and gentleness that Paul writes of in **Gal 5**, who is modeling the godly behavior of a life transformed by Jesus Christ?
        - iii. It must be us!
      - e. Everyone in the prison knew not only who Paul was, but whose he was by the way he acted in a very difficult time
  - 3. Finally, **verse 14** Paul tells the church... *Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of the God more courageously and fearlessly.*
    - a. Paul is proclaiming that not only are changes within the prison but all around the region
      - i. And this is not because of some wonderful blessing, it is because Paul is in prison
      - ii. Very simply put, your actions, your words, your demeanor impacts and influences others.
    - b. But it takes courage to do that
      - i. How many of us are willing to speak of our faith?
      - ii. How many of us are willing to be laughed at, ignored, or even put down?
      - iii. Courage often must be acquired
        - 1. The word courage in the original language is *tol-MAH-oh*
        - 2. It is written in the present tense meaning it continues
        - 3. Your courage should be ongoing when it relates to your words and actions as a Christian
      - iv. Author and pastor Tony Merida in one of his books wrote, *Persecuted Christians often inspire otherwise timid believers. After Jim Elliot and his four missionary friends were brutally killed by the Auca Indians (Jan 8, 1956), a large number of Wheaton College graduates offered themselves as missionaries in the years following. A similar thing was happening through Paul's sufferings. Christians were becoming more confident, bolder, and were speaking "with great courage.*
    - c. Paul's work was effective outside of the prison due to his current inability to preach to the people
      - i. Other people were becoming emboldened thinking, "if he can do that in there, surely I can do the same out here"
      - ii. But it took Paul realizing that nothing had changed in His call to spread the Gospel – even the chains of prison
- What do people see, hear, and feel when they are in your presence?
  - Paul was chained in prison yet...
    - He proclaimed that his time in prison was serving to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ
    - His attitude and actions impacted the entire prison from the other prisoners to the hardened Praetorian Guard
    - Finally, His time in prison was so effective that he was encouraging those on the outside to become bolder in their proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ