

Philippians 1:12-20 – The Mind of Christ Regarding Adversity

In thinking about these verses of Philippians, remember that Paul has the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), the same mind that we are to have (2:5). These verses reveal the attitude toward adversity which the mind of Christ produced in Paul. Think about how having the mind of Christ can improve our own attitudes.

Philippians 1:12-20

1) What do you think Paul is referring to in “the things which happened to me” (1:12)? What other things does he mention in 2 Cor. 11:23-27?

2) What was Paul’s attitude towards these things? How can you explain that attitude?

3) What are some unpleasant things that can happen to us in service of the gospel? How can such things advance the gospel?

4) How widely known were Paul’s bonds? What was known about them?

5) What effect did Paul’s chains have on most of the brethren? How would you explain that effect? What motivated them?

6) What was the effect on a minority of brethren? Explain the reasoning of this group? What motivated them? Are there ways in which we can be similarly tempted, even when doing good?

7) What was Paul's attitude towards this minority of brethren? Why did he react this way? Was Paul unconcerned about motives? What can we learn from Paul's reaction?

8) 1:19 is an allusion to Job 13:16. What is the context of that reference? What parallels are there between Paul's situation here and Job's?

9) What salvation does Paul mean in 1:19, salvation of his body or his soul? Through what two factors would this be accomplished?

10) What can we learn from this passage and from Acts 12:1-5 about the role and power of prayer?

11) What was Paul's hope and expectation? What can cause a person to be put to shame?