

Perspective in Persecution

Philippians 1:12-30 / 10-06-19 / Paul Sommerfeld

GETTING STARTED

What single thing or event has most change your perspective in life? *Why?*

OVERVIEW

One of the keys to having extravagant joy is maintaining a proper perspective on life and our circumstances. When persecution or hardship comes, we can easily be discouraged, but Paul reminds the church that God can use persecution and hardship to further the gospel, help us grow stronger, and challenge us to live a life worthy of the gospel for Christ's sake.

DIG DEEPER

1. What impacted you most from the sermon this week?
2. **Read Philippians 1:12-18:** How did Paul's circumstances affect his mood?
 - What does Paul see as the result(s) of his circumstances?
 - What is your typical response when things don't go according to your plan?
 - Do motives matter in the preaching of the gospel? *Why or why not?*
3. **Read Philippians 1:19-26:** Who is Paul's focus on in this passage?
 - How can you learn from Paul to get your eyes off yourself and look to God/others?
4. **Read Philippians 1:27-30:** What does it mean to "live worthy of the gospel"?
 - How have you experienced opposition to your faith?
 - What are some ways Paul suggests that you should respond to opposition?

APPLY

5. How have you seen God's hand bringing good in the midst of your previous trials?
 - How can you use your past experience of God's faithfulness to change your perspective when you endure trials or persecution in the future?
6. Statistics show that 1 in 9 Christians in the world today experiences persecution:
 - Visit icommittopray.com and pray for one of the prayer requests.
 - How can praying for persecuted Christians around the world change your perspective and help you see suffering as an opportunity for Christ's sake?
7. What "fruitful labor" do you think God has for your life *this week*?