

Finding Joy in Difficult Times

Philippians 1:12-26

I. Introduction:

Though we cannot control our circumstances, we can control our response to them.

II. Paul learned through his trials that there were three things he should do in order to maintain a truly joyful attitude:

A. Put the advancement of the Gospel at the center of your aspirations.

1. Unbelievers draw conclusions about Jesus Christ by the way we live (v.13).
2. Boldness in evangelism is the courage to speak with plainness and confidence about the Lord regardless of the circumstances (vv.14).

B. Avoid animosity in the family of God.

1. We must always look at the big picture (vv.15-18).
2. Prayer should be more than an occasional emergency; it deserves our constant attention (vv.19-20).

C. Develop the proper perspective on life and death.

1. Every believer has a great inheritance waiting for him in heaven (v.23).
2. When you look out for the interests of others, you are looking out for the interests of Christ (vv.24-26).