

JOY, IN GOSPEL PROGRESS

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-18 // JORDAN COROS
FEBRUARY 16, 2020



In all I do, the endgame is to advance the gospel. And so, I must seize every opportunity (v. 12-13), seeking to encourage others (v. 14) and staying the course (v. 15-17), experiencing the joy that comes from fulfilling my purpose (v. 18).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- We talk often about our responsibility to advance the gospel. Have you detected any increase in your sense of urgency or importance regarding personally sharing the gospel since you started attending church?
- What do you consider to be the primary reason for your current attitude toward sharing the gospel? In light of this message, does your attitude need to be adjusted in some way?
- Consider carefully God's words in Isaiah 55:10-11 and the effect of the rain and snow falling on the earth. What do you think God means when he says through the prophet Isaiah, "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty" (Isaiah 55:10-11)?
- One of the points that Jordan gave about seizing the opportunity to advance the gospel was this: We must learn to approach people with humility, patience, and grace. Why do we need to talk about Jesus in ways that are consistent with who he is and how he treated people?
- Are there any proud, impatient, or graceless aspects to how you've talked to others about their need for God? We may have all presented the truth of the gospel without the character of Christ at least once or twice. How do you keep sincere intensity of faith from coming off as sheer arrogance?

- Philippians 1:14 speaks about the effect of Paul’s imprisonment on other men who preached the gospel. Find three phrases from that verse that demonstrate how the brothers were encouraged by the fact that Paul continued to be a witness for Jesus while in chains. List them in order of appearance in the verse. (Answer hints based on ESV)

1. _____ in the Lord

2. much more _____

3. without _____

- Review the answers you found for the above question. Do you think that being encouraged in the first way will affect how you present the gospel to others? Is there a way to encourage yourself toward these things?
- In Philippians 1:15-18 Paul noted that some preached Christ “*from envy and rivalry but others from good will.*” Regardless of the motives, Paul experienced more difficulty in prison when people openly evangelized, even if they were just pretending to do it get him into more trouble with the Praetorian Guard who held him under arrest. He saw this political imprisonment as his opportunity to defend the gospel rather than an excuse to give it up. He believed he was “put” in prison with a mission to uphold the name of Christ to his government which disagreed with his faith. How does Paul’s view on his situation apply to the position and ministry of evangelical, gospel preaching churches in Canada?
- Do you feel you’ve witnessed to your full extent before today? With more confidence in the Lord, what do you think you might attempt in order to help someone new here the gospel?