



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Eternal Perspective

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REV. MATTHEW BARNES / WWW.CAPITOLCOM.ORG

But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. (Philippians 1:12-24)

Vs. 12

Paul is comforting the Philippians with the message that all of his suffering has been for a purpose – the purpose of furthering the Gospel.

“IT BECAME A COMMON SAYING IN PRIMITIVE TIMES, THAT THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS WAS THE SEED OF THE CHURCH.” - JOHN GILL

Vs. 13

As a result of his imprisonment and bondage, Paul is able to share the Gospel in the palace in Rome and even see some of Caesar’s staff won to Christ.

All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. (Philippians 4:22)

Vs. 15-16

It is the friends who unexpectedly oppose us (not our enemies) that bring the greatest discouragement. Those that are supposed to be brothers are trying to hurt Paul. His response is striking.

Vs. 18

Regardless of their deceptive methods, Paul rejoices that Christ is preached! He doesn’t harbor ill feeling or bitterness that they want to harm him.

Vs. 20-24

Life or Death – The charge to the believer is to magnify Christ in all we do. Paul was well aware that his life was temporary. This is a stark reminder that life is fragile and can end at any time. God is the sustainer and giver of life. He holds the keys to death, hell, and the grave since Christ conquered them at Calvary.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Revelation 1:18)

Are you prepared to die? Are you afraid to die? Are you magnifying Christ in your life? Would He be magnified in your death? When was the last time you saw the Lord’s hand evident in your life? Do you view suffering through the prism of the Good News of Christ and how He can be glorified in it?

BIBLE STUDIES

CHAPEL SERVICES: THURSDAY @ 12:10-12:35 P.M.
STAFF/LOBBYIST BIBLE STUDY: FRIDAY @ 12:30 P.M., CHAPEL ROOM