



**Philippians 1:12-18 “Gospel Ambitions”**  
September 11th, 2016

## OBSERVE & REFLECT

*(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)*

### READ Philippians 1:12-18

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

## INVESTIGATE & APPLY

*(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)*

1. In verses 1-11, Paul had greeted and prayed for the Philippians. Take a moment to review those verses and remember Paul's loving words to the people. Summarize v.1-11 in one sentence.
2. Beginning in verse 12, Paul moves from his prayer for the Philippians to a report, updating them on his present situation (v.12-18) and future outlook (v. 19-26). What things does he mention in v.12-18 that give you a glimpse of some of the hardship that he faced?
3. Think about some of the stories and hardships that Paul faced (many of which are recorded in the book or Acts). How much time does Paul spend talking about these? What does he focus on instead, particularly stated in verse 12?
4. Read verses 15-18. There were apparently two different types of evangelists with two very different motives at work. What are the two groups and their motives? How does Paul react to this? Would that be your reaction, if you were in the place of Paul?

“What ties us together? What do we talk about when we meet, even after a church service? Mere civilities? The weather? Sports? Our careers and children? Our aches and pains? None of these topics should be excluded from the conversation of Christians, or course. But what must tie us together as Christians is a passion for the gospel. Nothing else is strong enough to hold together the extraordinary diversity of people who constitute the church.”

-D.A. Carson

## NEXT STEPS

- ☀ What factors may cause people to lose their joy in ministry? What might we learn from this passage about how to deal with critics? Does Phil 1:12 encourage you? How so?
- ☀ What's most important to Paul: the message or the motive? Why? Why do so many of us struggle with envy and jealousy? How are we to deal with these?
- ☀ Do you love Christ's glory more than your own? Pray for God to help you treasure Christ more than the approval and applause of others.
- ☀ How could Paul rejoice and tell others to rejoice even though he was in prison? In what difficult situation are you called to rejoice and what makes it possible?



## **Philippians 1:12-18**

[12] I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, [13] so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. [14] And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

[15] Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. [16] The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. [17] The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. [18] What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,