



Advancing the Gospel

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: Learn that the Gospel advances through our struggles and through it being preached faithfully, whether it is preached in a pure nature or a competitive nature!

Read Philippians 1:12 - 13 - Our Struggles highlight the Gospel to the Lost

- Paul was not hiding the struggle he was facing, despite his imprisonment, he writes the believers to challenge and encourage them in the midst of his trial!
- Not only was he not hiding his struggle - he exhorts the faithful that it was advancing the Gospel!
- Paul’s imprisonment was not only known by the whole Imperial Guard, it was also known to “all the rest”; what was known was that Paul’s imprisonment was for the Work of Christ!
- Just as with Paul in his imprisonment, our struggles, trials and challenges will have others taking notice of our response. Is Christ being Glorified in our issues?

Read Philippians 1:14 - Our Struggles Encourage our Brothers and Sisters for the Gospel Work

- Not only was Paul’s imprisonment impacting those not yet of the faith, it was also having a powerful effect on the “brothers”!
- The brothers; through Paul’s imprisonment; were becoming more confident in the ministerial work!
- Their speaking and preaching of the Word of God was coming with greater boldness - “much more”!
- Not only was the message of the Gospel being preached more boldly, it was being done without fear!
- Again, as with Paul, our struggles will not only reach and impact the lost - but exhort and embolden the faithful brethren to run the race!

Read Philippians 1:15 - 18 - The Gospel being Preached is the Gospel being Advanced!

- Paul makes sure to address the fact that there are some who preach Christ for the right reason and some who preach for the wrong reason.
- Those with a pure and sincere desire to preach the Word, do it in love and for the Love of Christ!
- Those who preach the Word out of envy and rivalry, put their selfish ambition at the center of the work of the ministry.
- Paul makes the bold statement that whether the Word is preached in pretense or in truth, it still proclaims Christ - for that reason Paul rejoices!
- Paul is making this statement in regard to the True Gospel being preached, not in response to apostate or heretical false teachings.
- Whether we agree with the technique, if it is Biblical and Christ is preached - it is the Gospel!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand that those who are lost are watching how you respond to challenge?

- Whether in work, school, family or other public setting - those who see your challenge, may likely be watching how you respond - what better time and way to Glorify God!
- Many times those who claim to be atheist, agnostic or other God denying platform study your response to challenge, so they can use it in their argument, if you do not represent the Hope of Christ.... When we feel like we can stand no more, we stand because Christ showed us how!
- Never look past a trial, challenge or struggle being an opportunity to Glorify God!

Question 2: Do you understand the “brethren” are watching you respond to challenge, especially those you lead and disciple?

- It is not only an opportunity to impress and impact the lost with our response to strife, but it is an incredible opportunity to exhort and encourage the brethren!
- We may not know what every brother or sister is dealing with, but our personal battle may be something another is dealing with and our response could strengthen them to fight the fight!
- Our tests that become testimonies are faith building tools for the Body of Christ, to be encouraged during their own battles - do not look past the opportunity to strengthen the faith of your brother!

Question 3: Why should we rejoice in the Gospel being preached, even if we disagree with the style?

- First and Foremost - it is preaching Christ and releasing the Power of God to Salvation!
- We should also rejoice because there are so many preaching false gospels and watered down versions of the Word of God, that the truth being preached is reason alone to Glorify God!
- We should save our energy to speak out against perverted, watered down and altered messages of the Gospel, as well as defending the preaching of the pure Word of God!

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data

Jubilee International Ministries – Connect Group Curriculum
Philippians Lesson 2

