

Philippians 1:12-20 What Am I Missing?

1. Circumstances 12-14

A. Progress of the gospel

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, -Philippians 1:12 ESV

B. What are you in for?

A question no one had to ask Paul: "What are you in for?"

and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Ephesians 6:19-20 NASB

The Lord grant mercy to the house of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains;

2 Timothy 1:16 NASB

C. Inspiring Courage 14

"He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance."

Acts 28:30-31 ESV

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus." -Acts 4:13 ESV

2. People Living in Competition 15-18a

A. Ministry of Envy

For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus

Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. -Titus 3:3-7 NASB

Contrast of love and envy

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth."

1 Corinthians 13:4-6 ESV

B. Ministry of love

Life of envy or love

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." -John 15:9-11 ESV

3. Rejoice 18b-20

What makes you rejoice?

A. Christ is proclaimed

B. Deliverance

C. No shame

D. Christ is exalted

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." -Philippians 2:9-11 ESV

Reflection Questions:

1. *What has caused you to envy down through life?*

2. *Has the spread of the gospel caused you to rejoice?*

Follow UP in the Word through the Week...

Monday: John 15:9-11. When you look at the envy the world tries to stir up in you and the love Christ wants you to live in, what is winning out right now?

Tuesday: Ephesians 6:19-20. At first glance, being imprisoned would be very limiting to the work of the gospel. Paul used it as an opportunity. What hold you back from sharing Jesus? If you were to request prayer to friends you were reaching out to what would you say is the limiting factor for you?

Wednesday: Acts 4:13. What surprised the religious leaders most about Peter and John? How could this possibly encourage you when you sense the leading of the Holy Spirit to witness to a friend or someone close to you?

Thursday: Titus 3:3-7. Describe the means by which what “we once were” is done away with. Reflect on the work in your life today.

Friday: 1 Corinthians 13:4-6. What are the qualities that stand in the way of love according to these verses? Do you recognize any of these to be a part of your life today or one that you might be battling now?

Saturday: Philippians 2:9-11. This is reality even now for Jesus. Is your life in line with what the apostle has written in these verses? What stands in the way?