

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 24th July 2022 Hymns Psalm 145^{1st} V, T Kilmarnock, 103, 483, 335, Read: Philippians 1:9-11 Text Philippians 1:13-14

Series: Philippians (24) Title: The Furtherance of the gospel (2)

Paul in writing to the saints at Philippi assures them, that the gospel is advancing, even though Paul is in jail.

The reasoning being, the gospel is not Paul's gospel, or any man's, rather it is the gospel of God as it centres upon redemption, the payment and forgiveness of sins, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

God was pleased according to His own sovereign purpose as the King of Glory to place Paul His servant in a prison in Rome for the furtherance of the gospel, that sinners would believe ***the things concerning Christ***, but also believers would be strengthened in ***the things concerning Christ***.

Having considered, ***The CAUSE and CIRCUMSTANCES in the furtherance of the gospel.***

Please notice,

III THIRD, THE CONSEQUENCES IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

Paul said So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; the word **manifest means revealed, appeared, openly, that which is made known.**

The point Paul is making, that it was known, he was in prison for preaching Christ, the only Saviour for men and woman.

it was **manifested or made known** by the solders chained to Paul and others within the area of Rome, ***in all other places*** around Rome and further.

It was recognised that the light of the gospel shone forth in spite of his adverse circumstance

That which bound him to a prison guard became the means God used to advance the Gospel of saving grace.

The consequences for the furtherance of the gospel by Paul's imprisonment meant Paul was able to reach people that he would never have been able to reach as a free citizen preaching the Gospel outside in the city of Rome.

When Paul preached the gospel in the open air, authorities chased him down, with zeal to stop him.

What seemed like failure in gospel ministry turned out unto the furtherance of the gospel message ***in all the palace.***

Commentators and preachers differ on the usage of the word **palace** or the phrase ***in all the palace***, as used in this verse.

The original Greek reading is "***in the whole praetorium***" (praetorium). The term "**praetorium**" can refer either to a place or a group of people.

In considering the word in reference to a place.

The word **Praetorium** means the commander's headquarters," "the general's residence," "the emperor's house." Its roman camp, official work inside and outside of Rome.

Remember when Christ was sentenced by Pilate, a Roman official, **Mark 15:16** states that "***and the soldiers led Him away into the hall, called Praetorium, and they call together the whole band.***" Death by Crucifixion was Roman punishment.

For that reason some take the word as it stands, ***in all the Palace, Praetorium***, a part of Caesar's Court, certain a location.

If you have a Bible margin, it will say caesars court.

In considering the word in reference to a group of people.

Others take the word ***in all the palace*** to refer to people within Rome known, as Caesar's household including the soldiers serving as the palace guards called the **praetorian guards**.

The term also included believers in Rome. **Phil 4:22** ***“all the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesars household.”***

The reason being, from this word palace or its original wording **praetorium**, comes the name for the Roman soldiers called the **praetorian guards**

It was said there was between 9,000 to 10,000 guards. The “praetorian guards,” or the “palace guards,” of Rome had been established by Caesar Augustus, who was emperor of Rome at the time of Saviour’s birth (Luke 2:1).

Both are in view,

But either way, The point I make is that the gospel was advancing in places and to people, it would not have, had Paul not been in prison.

When Paul came as a prisoner to Rome, he was placed under the watch of the praetorian guards.

In considering the different praetorian soldiers who would take their turn guarding Paul, they would hear the conversations he had with his visitors, they would hear Christ presented as the only Saviour of sinners, exposing their Roman gods and idols as false.

Paul states in **Acts 28:17-31**, that among people who heard him ***Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ...some believed....***

The consequence for Paul bonds was the gospel spreading, reaching people and places in need of its message.

Believers, all that God permits in your life, your ***bonds in Christ are manifest among people, and in all other places***; there will be people and places you will go and meet that I never will during day or week and same with me. but the consequence, result, is the same, the furtherance of the gospel.

May God use this congregation in London that our ***bonds in Christ (prisoners of Christ, bound to Him) (will be) manifest in all the palace, (this city and its people) and in all other places, through out UK and uttermost part of the world.***

Unsaved you have heard gospel truth, your idols, and system of religion is exposed as false.

you need Christ as Saviour, your sins can only be forgiven, when you obey the gospel, ***believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.***

IV FOURTH THE CONFIDENCE IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

Verse 14 and many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds..."

The Gospel was advancing **outside the church** but it was also advancing **inside the church** as well because Paul's boldness and courage was having a very positive impact on the believers in Rome, and then on the Philippians as they hear the letter read.

Believers were strengthened and encouraged how the gospel furthered due to The things that happened unto Paul, such as his imprisonment

He speaks of believers, ***waxing confident***, the words mean ***trusting, confident, to persuade***. The overall idea, **is to be firm, strong in the Lord.**

The people of God were **persuaded**, made **confident** through and because of Paul's life in Christ, his circumstances in prison, but also as a prisoner of Christ, to share the gospel.

They began to see how God was using Paul to further the gospel among the Jews and Gentiles.

And they concluded that if God could minister through Paul in his circumstances and condition, then He could minister through them as well.

They became confident to share again the gospel. To speak the word.

They were not ashamed to own their Lord or to defend His cause, maintain the honour of His word, the glory of the cross.

Believers, we grow, and learn of each other, we are one another's, encourager, in serving God.

When God uses you in your testing circumstances to further the gospel, then it gives confidence for other believers in their circumstances, that God is able to further His cause through them.

Our situations will always change, therefore, Fix your eyes on the advancement of the gospel, and God will do the rest and give you His very best, as Paul said in **Phil 4:7** "**and the God of peace which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ.**

(Paul exhorted believers in **Hebrews 12:2-3** **Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** the word **looking unto** means **to look unto by looking away from this everything**. One focus, one gaze, look to Christ in His sufferings, take confidence in Him, why **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.** ³ **For**

consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.)

The message is the same unsaved one, look away from all others and only look to Christ for salvation. Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

Considering the substitutional sufferings of Christ, motivates believers, to serve God and share the gospel, because Christ death was not in vain, His death is the reason the gospel advances. His sacrificial blood is the reason there is a gospel to advance.

IV FOURTH THE COURAGE IN THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL

Verse 14 and many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Remember, don't lose the context, the believers at Philippi have heard Paul is in prison for preaching the gospel, to them, they could not see how the gospel will be spread.

There is tendency for believers outside and inside of Rome, to stop spreading the gospel, not to speak the word because the end result is jail.

At the time of writing there seemed to be a lack courage, to share the gospel. There was a hesitance. There was an antagonism against the gospel of Christ.

King Solomon said in **Proverbs 29:25** "***The fear of man bringeth a snare:*** The word **snare** means to trap, to be caught, to be stuck.

The idea of an animal, or someone advancing through a field, then falling into a trap, they are caught, stuck, they stop because they cannot go anywhere, or do anything.

When it comes to sharing the gospel, giving our leaflets, when we fear man, then we are snared, trapped, we will not share the gospel, we will not invite others to church **because we fear their response, reaction, their rejection**. Get on their wrong side.

This is what was happening.

However, it appears that the small amount of courage the believers of Rome possessed, had now been strengthened by Paul's bonds. They have seen the gospel advance. They have witnessed the power of God, the authority of the word of God.

And as a result, believers are ***much more bold to speak the word without fear***.

The word **bold** means **courage**. Paul's courage, gave courage to other believers to share the gospel.

Furthermore, the words ***much more***, means ***abundantly, increasing***.

It is translated as **Exceedingly**, in **Mark 15:14** during the trial of Christ.

Pilate knowing there was no fault in Christ for He was Holy One, the sinless one who came to save sinners, to deliver His people from their sin, yet the chief priests moved the people to choose Christ, demanding Him to be crucified, in **verse 13** "***They cried out again, Crucify Him***. then in **verse 14** ***Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, (more abundantly, much more,) Crucify Him***.

Their cry was getting louder, stronger, intense, more than it was previous

That is the sense of this word, much more, the believers are becoming stronger, their courage has grown, so **to speak the word of God without fear**.

they were released from their snare.

The phrase ***speaking the word***, it is to proclaim the word, share the word, but it is not the standard word meaning ***to preach the word, or herald forth of the word***. rather it is more ***to communicate the word by conversation***.

The same word is used in **Acts 16:13-14**, when Paul and the missionary team, came to Philippi, we read “...***we sat down and spake unto the woman, which resorted hither.***” In referring to Lydia in **verse 14** “***she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.***” In the house of the converted jailor in **Acts 16:32** “***and they spake unto him the word of Lord. and to all that were in his house.***”

Believers had courage to speak up, in the name of Christ, when asked, when questioned, they could speak the word, share the gospel, one on one.

While believers were more bold to speak the word by Paul's bonds, yet this courage came from the Lord.

This was Paul's prayer for Himself in **Eph 6:19** “***And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel.***”

Boldness, courage to stand fast in the gospel, share the gospel, to serve in the gospel, must be given by the Lord.

Remember Joshua would lead Israel after Moses had died, can you imagine Joshua. Moses was the minister, leader for over 40 years, they had great times with Moses, but Joshua is called carry on the work, lead the people onward.

He couldn't do it himself. He felt his weakness, limitations, fears which would snare him. But the Lord said in **Joshua 1:9** ***Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be***

not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Believer this ought to encourage our hearts, in those one-on-one conversations you can share the gospel, speaking a verse of scripture to help the need.

The Lord will give help, courage, boldness, to speak up and answer. Pray for one on one opportunities to speak the word.

Like Jeremiah, he will put His words into our mouths. He looks for empty vessels to fill. He looks for lives to be channels of blessings.

God takes the weak things of the world, to confound the mighty that no flesh will glory in His presence. He gives the courage. He will receive all the pre-eminence as He doeth all things well.

When you don't know what to say, speak the word.

if anyone tries to get you off track, or away from word into unfamiliar territory to see you slip up, just speak the word.

avoid your opinions, or what you think, just speak the word. God has promised His word in **Isaiah 55:11 shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.**

That's why there is hope for the unsaved one today, because we are communicating God's word not man's theories. The assures that by coming to Him for forgiveness of sins, He will completely forgive you.