

Three Encouraging Things Series

May 29, 2024

Scripture: Philippians 1:12-20

Summary: This is an expository lesson based on Philippians 1:12-20.

Introduction:

Paul was in jail when he wrote this letter and yet he is full of joy. Just like Paul we all have bad times and times of discouragement. Read “You Know it’s a Bad Day when...”

You know it’s going to be a bad day when:

- * You turn on the morning news and they’re displaying emergency routes out of your city.**
- * When the sun comes up in the west.**
- * Or when your boss tells you not to bother taking off your coat.**
- * Or when you jump out of bed in the morning and you miss the floor.**
- * You know it’s a bad day when the bird singing outside your bedroom window is a buzzard.**
- * Or when you wake up in the morning and your dentures are locked together.**
- * It’s a bad day when your horn accidentally gets stuck and you’re following a group of Hell’s Angels on the freeway.**
- * You know it’s a bad day when you put both contact lenses in the same eye.**
- * When you walk to work on a summer morning and find the bottom of your dress is stuck in your panty hose.**

* When you call your answering service and they tell you it's none of your business.

* When your income tax check bounces.

* When you step on your scale and it reads tilt.

* When suicide prevention puts you on hold.

Discouragement is a tremendous evil.

Many years ago a young Mid-western lawyer suffered from such deep depression that his friends thought it best to keep all knives and razors out of his reach. He questioned his life's calling and the prudence of even attempting to follow it through. During this time, he wrote, "I am now the most miserable man living. Whether I shall ever be better, I cannot tell."

This evening Paul offers us three things to encourage the church:

We can be encouraged by the Providence of God,

We can be encouraged by the Promise of the Gospel, and

We can be encouraged by the Provision of the Holy Spirit.

I. The Providence of God – Phil 1.12-14.

12But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which* happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

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

A. God is in control of circumstances. – Rom 8.28

28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

B. God is a great encourager. – Acts 4.31

31And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

II. The Promise of the Gospel – Phil 1.15-18

15Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

18What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

A. The preaching of the gospel is God's chosen method for reaching the world for Christ – Mk 16.15; 1 Cor 1.18-25.

Mk 16.15

15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

1 Cor 1.18-25.

18For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

19For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.

20Where *is* the wise? where *is* the scribe? where *is* the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?

21For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

22For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

23But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

24But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

25Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

B. Gospel preaching and people getting saved encourages God's people, "I will rejoice". New believers are always excited and want to tell others about Christ. Many times this excitement goes away. But remember that if you ever are witness to the saving power of the gospel, you want to witness it again and again.

III. The Provision of the Holy Spirit – Phil 1.19-20

19For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20According 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.

A. We are not alone; God is with us! John 16.7-11.

7Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

**B. The Power of the Holy Spirit is activated by PrayerPhilippians 1:19 –
19For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and
the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,**

v.19 “through your prayers”.

The power of the Holy Spirit is only a prayer away.

Conclusion:

**God wants us to be encouraged and empowered so that we can serve Him
according to His will and live up to our highest potential.**

**We can be encouraged by: The Providence of God, The Promise of the Gospel,
and The Provision of the Holy Spirit.**

Encouragement means the difference between success and failure.

Be encouraged today, become an encourager today.