

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for June 9-10, 2001**

**"Good Results from Bad Circumstances"**

**Philippians 1:12-14**

**Dale Whitehead**

Paul wanted to go to Rome as a preacher of the gospel, but instead he went as a prisoner in chains.

How did he become a prisoner in Rome?

Paul's first step in getting to Rome was Paul's initial arrest and brief imprisonment in Jerusalem (Acts 21:33 - Acts 23:10).

Paul's second step in getting to Rome was Paul being transferred to a Roman prison in Caesarea (Acts 23:23).

Paul's third step in getting to Rome was his appeal to Caesar (Acts 25:10-11).

We cannot allow ourselves to think that our circumstances will prevent the gospel message from advancing.

What were the tools God provided Paul that helped him spread the gospel?

Paul's chains:

The word translated "progress" (PROSKOPE) literally means "to strike" or "to cut forward." It pictures certain individuals going before an army cutting a way through forests or over mountains.

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Paul's chains were helping to advance the gospel through Paul's contact with the unsaved.

The praetorians formed the imperial guard.

Paul's chains were helping to advance the gospel by energizing the church to share fearlessly.

It is not Paul's imprisonment that makes the Philippians bold to preach the gospel, it is Paul's response to his imprisonment.

The secret is this: We need to look at circumstances that we cannot change as God-given opportunities for the furtherance of the gospel and rejoice at what God is going to do instead of complaining about what God did not do.