

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for June 30 - July 1, 2001

"Good Results from Bad Circumstances"

Philippians 1:15-18

Dale Whitehead

The biblical principle underlying Philippians 1:12-26 is that human circumstances lie in God's hands and that God will use those circumstances to advance the gospel.

Paul's Christian Opponents

Some Roman Christians who had been personally challenged by Paul's imprisonment had good feelings toward Paul and others had bad feelings toward Paul. Whether their feelings were good or bad toward Paul both groups were being motivated to share the gospel of Christ because of those feelings (Philippians 1:15).

The word for "good will" (EUDOKIA) literally means "to think well." This word refers to the good motives and well wishes that produce action.

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The word "envy" (PHTHONOS) is a feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of another.

The word "strife" (ERIS) is best understood as rivalry.

The word "distress" (THLIBO) means to suffer affliction, to be troubled, it has reference to sufferings due to the pressure of circumstances or the antagonism of people.

A messenger of the gospel who is sinning does not diminish the power of the gospel to save.

Anytime the true and only gospel is shared under any circumstances we should be able to rejoice.

We can rejoice when the true gospel is shared under any circumstance, by any individual and accompanied by any motivation, if our concern for the salvation of people transcends all other concerns.