

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for July 28-29, 2001

Dale Whitehead

"Good Results from Bad Circumstances"

Philippians 1:18-26

The third circumstance God used to advance the gospel was Paul's crisis (Philippians 1:18b-26).

Paul in effect is saying in Philippians 1:18, "The gospel is advancing in the midst of my present circumstances and I am rejoicing. And I will continue to rejoice in my future circumstances as my present crises unfolds."

We need to know that Paul's anticipated future joy comes from his assurance of ultimate salvation.

The word "deliverance" (SOTERIA) is commonly used in the New Testament, and especially in Paul's letters, to mean "salvation" in the ultimate sense of rescue from God's wrath on the final day.

Paul quoting Job 13:16 is strong evidence that Paul uses the word "deliverance" in Philippians 1:19 to communicate his final vindication before God.

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Job 13:13-18 is all about vindication. It is all about Job believing in spite of all his sufferings, even if those sufferings included his death, that he was a righteous man and would be ultimately vindicated in the courts of heaven.

One day our circumstances may be good and one day our circumstances may be bad but Paul was not focusing on the circumstances of his life but on where the circumstances of his life were leading.

In essence Philippians 1:19 is an expression of faith in response to the promise of God found in Romans 8:28.

Do you want to experience biblical joy? Then you need to focus on future glory and be able to say with the same confidence as Paul said in verse 19, "I know that this (the circumstances of my life) shall turn out for my ultimate deliverance."

Paul's anticipated future joy comes from an assurance of ultimate salvation that flows from a Christ-centered life.