

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for August 25-26, 2001

Dale Whitehead

"Good Results from Bad Circumstances"

Philippians 1:18-26

The first of Paul's present circumstances that God used to advance the gospel were his chains.

The second of Paul's present circumstances that God used to advance the gospel were professing Christians who were preaching Christ from impure motives.

The third circumstance that God used to advance the gospel was his unfolding crisis.

Paul's statement concerning his future anticipated joy was not only tied to his ultimate deliverance but also to his confident expectation of continuing service to Christ after his release from prison.

Paul has just spoken about his earnest expectation and hope that Christ would be exalted in his body whether by life or by death and now he is making clear to his readers and to ourselves as well that either alternative is a good thing (Philippians 1:21).

"To live for Christ" meant to live a life devoted to the Death being considered "gain" by Paul is not a matter of what he is leaving but where he is going. Death was gain for Paul because it was the doorway into Christ's presence (Philippians 1:23-24).

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If we fail to view death as the portal to better things we will find it very difficult to live for Christ. Rather than living in light of our hope we will be tempted to live our lives for the here and now.

Hopefully as you leave here this weekend God will use this verse to help shape your thoughts as you face not only the challenges of life but also the prospect of death itself.