

Advancing the Gospel

Philippians 1:12-14

1. Paul's surprising perspective on his imprisonment.

"We can trust Christ's purposes, even when we do not yet fully understand them."¹

2. Paul's preaching Christ is the cause of his imprisonment.

"Paul's example is impressive and clear: Put the advance of the gospel at the center of your aspirations. Our own comfort, our bruised feelings, our reputations, our misunderstood motives—all these are insignificant in comparison with the advance and splendor of the gospel. As Christians, we are called upon to put the advance of the gospel at the very center of our aspirations. What are your aspirations? To make money? To get married? To travel? To see your grandchildren grow up? To find a new job? To retire early? None of these is inadmissible; none is to be despised. The question is whether these aspirations become so devouring that the Christian's central aspiration is squeezed to the periphery or choked out of existence entirely?"²

¹ Sinclair Ferguson, Let's Study Philippians p.19

² D.A. Carson, Basics for Believers pp.25-26

3. Paul's evangelism continues and spreads despite his imprisonment.

Next week: Trinity Series # 1 - Majesty of the 3 in 1 God