



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, October 24, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

“Struggling Well: That Christ Be Proclaimed”

Philippians 1:12-18

1. Struggling well through what looks like defeat
(Philippians 1:12-13)

2. Struggling well in defeat encourages others.
(Philippians 1:14)

3. Struggling well in defeat creates unpleasant surprises and a pleasant end. (Philippians 1:15-18)

Table Talk

- 1) What “defeat” had happened to Paul? How might imprisonment be a hindrance to the Gospel’s advance? What group became acquainted with the Gospel as a result of Paul’s imprisonment? What are some “defeats” in your life that you have seen become God’s means to advance the Gospel? (vv. 12-13)
- 2) How does Paul’s imprisonment impact the brothers in Christ around him? What makes you more bold to share your faith? How might the defeats in your life give others courage to share the Gospel? (v. 14)
- 3) What two kinds of reactions does Paul receive from believers in his imprisonment? Why might there be rivalry and envy on the part of some? Can people preach the genuine Gospel from bad motives? Why does Paul’s imprisonment also bring out the best of motives in others? Have you ever seen a comparable situation to this one? Why is Paul’s reaction in verse 18 somewhat surprising? How does his reaction reveal that he is not at all about kingdom building for himself? (vv. 15-18)
- 4) What can you do to look for ways that the “defeats” of your life can really serve to advance the Gospel? How can you avoid the discouragement that comes when others envy you or see you as a rival? Where are the people in your life who have good will and love you and the Lord well? How is it helpful for struggling well to see our mission as including the sinful attitudes of fellow believers? How is it helpful for struggling well to see that what initially looks like a defeat of the Gospel can actually turn out for a Gospel advance? What can you do this week to cultivate such a heart for struggling well?