

# **“In Every Circumstance”**

**Philippians 1:12-18**

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**All Scripture quoted from ESV unless otherwise noted**

Paul has been falsely accused, beaten with the intent to kill, unjustly arrested, about to be flogged, had an ambush plotted against him, relocated to Caesarea, stuck in prison for 2 years, shipwrecked just off the island of Malta, and now that he’s arrived in Rome, he was put on house arrest for 2 years. It was during this time that God inspired Paul to write what we now know as the books of Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

Philippians is a letter of encouragement and thanks to a healthy church.

## **FINDING JOY IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE**

### **Opposition creates opportunities**

- The way you walk through deep valleys never goes unnoticed
- Get ready now, by investing in your spiritual growth and in lasting relationships that will help support you in those valleys

### **Don’t wait for perfect circumstances**

- Paul is a missionary at heart
- John 1:12 – “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God”
- Don’t allow detours to derail you
- The perfect circumstance is the one in which God places you, whom God has perfectly created to be in that place, in that moment

### **Shed the negative labels**

- The faithful preaching of the gospel message is a win in Paul’s book.
- Ultimately, it is God who determines what success looks like

## **DIG IN!**

**Here are some farm-fresh questions that will help you to personalize and apply this morning’s message.**

1. ***What was most surprising, unexpected, or helpful from today’s passage/message? Why?***
2. ***Describe a situation in which it would be very difficult for you to find joy. What might you be able to do, in order to rejoice even in that situation?***

3. Describe a time that God allowed you to go through a difficult season, but later on, you began to understand God's wisdom as He worked through that season. What did you learn?
4. Describe what it might look like today for someone to preach the gospel for selfish reasons. How should a Christian respond to such a situation?
5. Which is more dangerous, false/misleading information, or bad motives? Why? Are you sure?
6. What negative label(s) do you need to shed today? How will you do that?
7. Read through the book of Philippians this week. What patterns do you notice?
8. *What have you learned through your personal time of Bible reading this week?*