

Philippians: The Gospel Driven Life | Philippians 1:12-18a

- 1. THINK:** Paul did not use his circumstance to advance himself. Why not? What do you think made the difference in Paul's life, what makes him different than us, in that he used his circumstances to advance the Gospel **DO:** Do you see your life as a sea of opportunities to advance the Gospel, or do you see it as a sea of hardships? Consider what circumstances right now exist in your life where you have used them to advance yourself by complaining, grumbling, manipulating or even allowing sin? Take some time to honestly evaluate how you view your circumstances.....all of them and decide whether to use them as Gospel advancing tools in your life?
- 2. THINK:** How do you view suffering and hardship in your own personal life? What do you think the goals and objectives are for you when you are in the midst of struggle? What do you think God's desires are for those circumstances that He delivered to you? **DO:** Make a mental or written list of objectives God has for you in the midst of suffering, trial and hardship? Are there character traits he wants to build into you? Write them down? Is there a grand, over-arching objective that he wants to accomplish? Write down ideas that reflect Scripture. Use this list and post it to ready yourself for when God sends you through another unplanned circumstance.
- 3. THINK:** What is the world's use of hardship? How do those around you who do not know Christ handle trials? What is their intention in it? Isn't it to remove trial and suffering from their lives and make no use of it? How are believers to be different? How can your Gospel-centered response to hardship be used as a megaphone to promote Christ and the Cross? Why is there a greater opportunity in trials to do this, than there is when all things are going well? **DO:** Consider these three components: People Around You, Trials Happening To You and The Savior In You. Plan how these three should converge together so that God would have you verbally minister the Savior in you to people around you, from a platform of trials happening to you. What does this look like?
- 4. THINK:** Are you the type of person that gets jealous if others have a ministry you want or have disciples that you wanted to work with? How do you handle another's small group doing well when yours might be suffering? How do you handle someone else's gift being used mightily of the Lord when you struggle with yours barely emerging from dormancy? In other words, do you see others involved in the Gospel as for you and with you? Or, maybe a better question: Are you really with others who are in Gospel centered living? **DO:** Pray for those you struggle with. Bless those who you compare yourself to. Praise God for the Gospel success of others. Thank God for those who are actively seeing God do amazing things through them. Pray and keep praying and let God change a self-centered life to a Gospel – centered life.

- 5. THINK:** What keeps you from living a Gospel Driven Life? If that is not your experience, what is your life Driven by? What is your greatest longing? Does it bring you to concern that what drives you is not gospel driven, and is possibly in rebellion with what God would have drive you? **DO:** You have so many influences in your life. You have so much stuff. You have so many things vying for your time and attention? Now, do those things promote a Gospel driven life or a self-driven life? Does eternity or temporary pleasures flood your daily intentions. What is there to do here? Repent, Re-Order, Re-prioritize and Remember that Christ saved you to fulfill His pleasures and not your own. What do you need to *DO* to move towards this?